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**20p**

# THE TIMES

No. 65,232

TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

## Historian Gilbert becomes the Boswell to No 10

BY PETER RIDDOLL AND DANIEL JONSON  
JOHN MAJOR may have found his Boswell in the unlikely shape of the author of the authorised biography of Sir Winston Churchill. Martin Gilbert is being described in Downing Street as "court chronicler" to the Prime Minister, though it is not clear what form his reflections will take.

Mr Gilbert, the author of six of the eight volumes of the official life of Churchill, is the only outsider in the small official party of civil servants accompanying the Prime Minister on his trip to Washington.

His role consists of advising the Prime Minister on the historical background to the "special relationship" so that Mr Major can remind his hosts of happier days half a century ago.

Mr Gilbert also accompanied Mr Major on his visit to the Middle East three weeks ago, though on that occasion he was an adviser in view of his expertise as a historian of the Holocaust and of Jewish affairs.

It is highly unusual for historians to be given such close access to a politician who is still active and in office. Edmund Morris was given similar treatment towards the end of Ronald Reagan's presidency. The closest British parallel is John Marley, who wrote the classic official biography of Gladstone after observing him closely as a member of his last cabinet in the 1930s.

An approved biography of Mr Major is now being written by Anthony Seldon, a prominent contemporary historian. This is due for publication in the autumn of next year.

Approached the Churchill biography, he said that he was thinking about writing about some other British figure. "But I have no one in mind. Any suggestions would be gratefully received."



Man in the news, page 2  
Gilbert: a confidant

### Panorama 'prejudicial to elections'

## Judge halts TV interview with Major

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
OPPOSITION parties yesterday won a court battle to prevent the BBC from broadcasting a Panorama interview with the Prime Minister in Scotland before the elections for Scotland's new unitary local authorities.

The Labour-led Scottish Democrats accused the Conservatives of trying to bully the BBC into more favourable coverage, and Lord Abernethy in the Court of Session in Edinburgh upheld the argument that the programme could prejudice the outcome of the election.

The BBC said that it was disappointed by the decision, which had important implications for the freedom of broadcasters to report in a fair, balanced and independent way. It was considering an appeal.



Mr Major at the Pentagon for the start of his two days of talks in Washington

## Ministers study £8,000 'learning credits' scheme

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT  
PLANS to issue education vouchers worth up to £8,000 to sixth formers will be examined by Cabinet ministers this week in an attempt to make schools, colleges and employers more responsive to the career ambitions of young people.

## Mother makes fruitless trip to plead for her son's life

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON  
ANNE INGRAM, mother of the British-born murderer due to die in Georgia's electric chair this Thursday, flew from Atlanta to Washington yesterday in a desperate but futile attempt to persuade John Major to intervene on her son's behalf.

## Barings chairman quits

PETER BARING and Andrew Tuckey, the chairman and deputy chairman of Barings, the collapsed merchant bank, resigned yesterday, declaring that their move was "a matter of honour and principle". The two offered their resignations

## Judge orders a meal for four hungry defendants

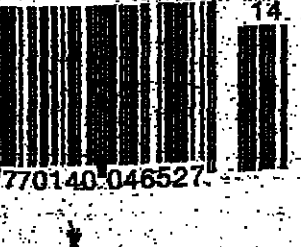
BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT  
A TRIAL at the Old Bailey was halted yesterday after four prisoners said they were hungry because lunch had been inadequate.

## Judge orders a meal for four hungry defendants

usual packet of crisps, sandwich and an apple. Securicor said the men had been given a hot meal similar to those on airlines.

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# A question of turning the tables on inquisitors

FOUR hundred and eighty-nine journalists now have parliamentary press passes. We know this because it was revealed in a Written Answer from the Chairman of the Administration Committee last week.

Peter Bottomley (C. Eatham) had inquired. Bottomley is on the warpath after newspapers suggested that MPs were enjoying an effective three-day week. "Will he arrange to monitor for a week the number of journalists in the gallery during each hour the House sits?" Bottomley added.

"Yes," was the reply. "I

have asked the Sergeant at Arms to make arrangements for the first full sitting week after the House returns from the Easter adjournment."

I regret to say that Bottomley's warning has yet to sink in. Choosing a particularly riveting moment of yesterday afternoon's proceedings when, at 5.43pm, MPs were considering New Clause 1 at the Report Stage of the Finance Bill, I peered in to check. David Winnick (Lab. Walsall N) was on his feet. Besides Winnick there were 17 MPs in the Chamber.

There was one journalist in the Press Gallery. He was not



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

taking notes. Where were the other 488? We must pull up our socks fast if we are to survive the head counts.

Mr Bottomley's spies will either have to keep a continuous tally, or make random swoops. For if the count takes place at the same time each hour we will soon learn when that is, and file in like prisoners to the prison yard for the taking of the register — then escape back behind

bars. Many journalists consider the Bottomley plan outrageous.

But this column is concerned not that it is too bold — but that it is too timid. The mere fact of a reporter's physical presence is no guarantee that he or she is listening, understanding, or, indeed, awake. Ten seconds of Winnick yesterday had my eyes glazing over.

There are two ways Mr B

might check that we were doing our job. The first (and less ambitious) is that Madam Speaker be empowered to interrupt MPs' speeches at any point, crane her neck up at the Press Gallery, select any journalist at random, and call: "You — yes, you, young lady — Alice Thomson! What was Mr Winnick just saying?" And (assuming she had a note) Alice would have to try to read her shorthand back as MPs giggled and jeered.

For expert political editors, this spotcheck could go further. As (for instance) Mr Major dined "I refer my Rt Hon friend to the answer I

gave on 20 March, 1991". Miss Boothroyd could bark up at us: "Now let's see who really knows their stuff. To what is the Prime Minister referring here? Hands up! Yes, Peter Riddell..."

But my more ambitious plan is, I think, the best. Apart from Questions to departmental ministers, each Wednesday would feature quarter of an hour for Questions to newspaper editors. On the first Wednesday after Easter, we might have Questions to the Editor of *The Independent* newspaper.

Mr Ian Hargreaves, sitting among us upstairs, would be

flanked (as secretaries of state are flanked by junior ministers) by his lobby correspondents. Hargreaves would quail as he saw that Question I was from Jonathan Aitken: "When did the Editor last meet Mr Tim Laxton, on his staff, and will he make a Statement?"

Tories would cheer and Labour boo as Aitken tried to trip Hargreaves up. Tory poodles would chip in with planted questions designed to assist the Chief Secretary.

After all, if the media do now wield the power that everyone says we do, perhaps we should be held to account.

## M25 to be widened to carry 12 lanes of traffic

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
AND ALICE THOMPSON

THE busiest two-mile section of the M25 is to be turned into the country's first 12-lane motorway, the Transport Secretary said yesterday.

Controversial proposals to build link-roads alongside the M25 in Surrey to create a 14-lane super-highway had been shelved, Brian Mawhinney told the Commons. The decision was condemned by the roads lobby and environmental groups.

Under the new proposals, the most heavily congested stretch of the London orbital motorway will be widened to at least five lanes in each direction between junctions 12 and 16 to the west of the capital. Only between junction 14, the interchange with the M4, and junction 15 will the carriageway be widened to six lanes. Dr Mawhinney said the £75 million widening scheme, combined with the introduction of new traffic management technology, was capable of handling the projected growth in traffic on the M25 for the next 15 years.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the Government had been forced into "a monumental U-turn on a scheme which should never have been envisaged". The proposed road lanes were "very expensive and will rapidly fill up with traffic", he said.

Local anti-roads campaigners pledged to continue the fight against the proposals. Roger Higman, transport campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "This announcement paves the way for part of the M25 to be turned into a 12-lane superhighway. That is simply unacceptable."

The decision also met a furious reaction from the roads lobby. The AA said it was "a stake through the heart of the economy".

The Government was forced into action over the M25 by the volume of traffic using it for access to Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Dr Mawhinney said he was setting up a cross-department group of officials chaired by Steve Norris, the Minister for Transport in London, to explore developing better road and rail links with the airports. This could include railway stations with check-in facilities next to motorways leading into the capital.

## Clwyd and Cousins failed to clear visit to Turkey with Chief Whip

# Blair dismisses two frontbenchers for unauthorised trip

By JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

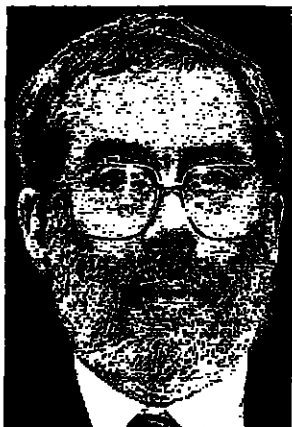
TONY BLAIR took a tough approach to party discipline yesterday by sacking two Labour frontbenchers for taking an unauthorised trip abroad. Ann Clwyd and Jim Cousins, both from Labour's foreign affairs team, were dismissed after going on a five-day visit to Turkey and Iraq without getting permission from Derek Foster, Labour's Chief Whip. Determined to assert his authority on his frontbench team, the Labour leader reprimanded Ms Clwyd and Mr Cousins for missing a series of key votes in the Commons last week.

The MPs left on Sunday, March 26, missing votes on the Disabled Rights Bill and a three-line whip on an education debate, before returning last Friday.

The visit, to monitor the Turkish army's incursion against Kurdish guerrillas in Iraq, also meant that two of Labour's foreign affairs team were absent during Foreign Office questions in the Commons last Wednesday.

"They have been dismissed for going abroad without the permission of the whips or of the Shadow Foreign Secretary and subsequently failing to return for important votes, having been asked to do so," a spokesman for Mr Blair said.

Ms Clwyd, who had previ-



Cousins: not whingeing

ously been sacked from the front bench by Neil Kinnock for voting against Labour on a defence vote, immediately attacked the decision as "unfair". But Mr Cousins accepted the decision and told her to stop "whingeing".

Ms Clwyd said that her dismissal was due to a long-standing argument with one of the senior Labour whips, the pairing whip Ray Powell.

She argued she had been treated unfairly, insisting that she had a good voting record and had been absent from the Commons only once this year.

"I am quite prepared to take punishment when I think it is deserved but I do not, in the circumstances, believe it was deserved," Ms Clwyd said.

She argued that she had been invited at the last minute by Erdal Inonu, the new Turkish Foreign Secretary, to act as an international observer.

Ms Clwyd, a human rights campaigner, has had close links with Turkey for more than a decade and felt she could not turn down such an opportunity.

Mr Cousins, in sharp contrast, accepted Mr Blair's decision and admitted that he would have done the same himself, and he advised Ms Clwyd to stop complaining.

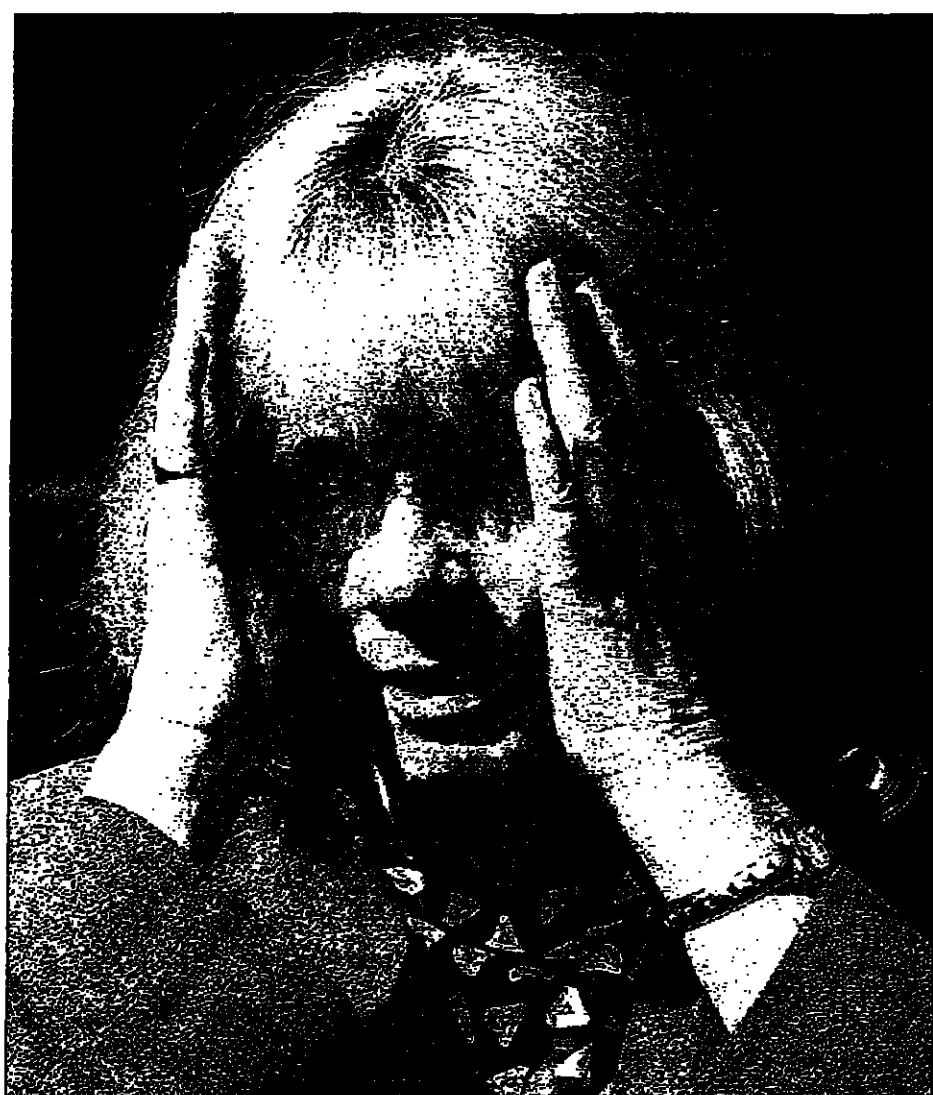
"I don't think she has been unfairly treated — I don't think I have been unfairly treated," he said. "I am not whingeing about it and I strongly recommend that Ann doesn't whinge either," he added.

He is said to have agreed to go with her because his brief covers the Middle East, but he is privately angry that the trip turned out to be little more than a propaganda exercise.

The Chief Whip was alerted to their trip only on Monday morning last week, although Ms Clwyd insisted she had left a message on the answering machine of Don Dixon, the deputy chief whip, on Sunday before she departed.

She also said that she had told the office of Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, about the trip on the previous Friday.

Mr Foster contacted both



Clwyd: attacked the Labour leader's decision to dismiss her as unfair

MPs on Monday afternoon when they were on the Iraqi border and told them would be sacked unless they returned on the next available flight.

He then reserved two places on an aircraft returning from Ankara on Wednesday night but the MPs failed to take them. Ms Clwyd maintains

that she and Mr Cousins never knew about the seats. But their failure to return on Wednesday was said to be the last straw.

Mr Blair's tough approach shows his determination to instil discipline into his frontbench team.

The whips' office has also

been trying to ensure a 100 per cent turnout for recent votes, to highlight the Government's small majority.

Both Ms Clwyd and Mr Cousins are expected to be replaced by two MPs from the 1992 intake who were promoted to the whips' office last November.

## Major challenges Adams to discuss decommissioning

FROM PETER RIDDELL IN WASHINGTON

JOHN MAJOR challenged Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin yesterday to start serious discussions about decommissioning the IRA's weapons and explosives.

Speaking in Washington, the Prime Minister brushed aside Mr Adams' comment that he did not have any confidence in Mr Major, who should follow the example of President Clinton and "sue for peace".

Mr Major said that he did not care what the President of Sinn Féin thought. What he was concerned about was that Sinn Féin "comes along and engages in constructive discussions that will lead to a decommissioning of arms".

Mr Major discussed the Northern Ireland situation in his talks with members of the Administration and with congressional leaders. Mr Major was given strong support on the decommissioning issue by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State. Both Mr Major and Mr Christopher were at pains to put behind them the differences last month over Mr Adams's visit

to Washington. Mr Major described these differences as "a spat, as there is in the best of families".

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said he hoped that ministerial talks with Sinn Féin could begin soon.

Mr Major and the Clinton Administration proclaimed their agreement on a wide range of international issues, headed by the Bosnian conflict, as a preparation for the meeting today at the White House between the Prime Minister and the President.

On Bosnia, both governments agreed on the need to reinvigorate the international contact group to prolong the cessation of hostilities due to end later this month. However, Mr Major failed to persuade Senator Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader, of the strong British opposition to the unilateral lifting of sanctions against arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims.

Major in US, page 1  
Diary, page 16

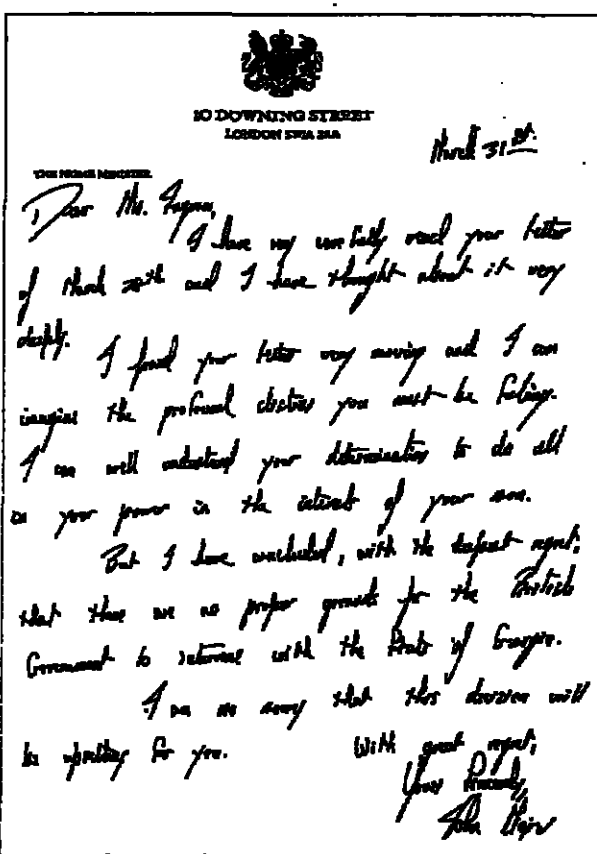


Ingram: condemned

## Execution

Continued from page 1  
legal standing in a case in the state of Georgia. That is not only because Ingram has dual nationality but also because the Government does not believe in interfering where someone has broken the laws of another country.

The Prime Minister also emphasised America's right to use the death penalty for serious crimes in a draft reply to the Labour MP Anne Campbell, in whose Cambridge constituency Ingram was born. Mr Major wrote: "There are no special grounds for a plea because the death penalty is permitted in certain circumstances under international human rights law. Mr Ingram was convicted of a most serious crime as spec-



John Major's letter to Mrs Ingram

fied in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Mr Ingram has received a fair trial and a lengthy appeals process."

Mr Major, who votes in the Commons against restoring capital punishment, made the personal decision not to inter-

vene after receiving an emotional letter from Ingram's mother last week.

The Foreign Office advised the Prime Minister that Britain had no formal grounds to become involved.

Ben Macintyre, page 15

## Man in the News

# Historian who devoted decades to Churchill

By DANIEL JOHNSON

MARTIN GILBERT, the "court chronicler" accompanying the Prime Minister to Washington, is a one-man university. His life's work has been the official biography of Winston Churchill, which took three decades to complete. Even if that *magnus opus* were to be disregarded, Gilbert, 53, could be viewed as one of the leading historians of his generation.

A precocious undergraduate, Gilbert owed much to A.J.P. Taylor's tutorials at Magdalen College, Oxford, in the 1950s. After national service, he became a fellow of Merton College in 1962 and has remained one since. Although he has held many visiting chairs, he has never been primarily an academic historian, preferring to work from home in Oxford or north London. In 1963 he published his first (much acclaimed) book, *The Appeasers*, written jointly with Richard Gott, later of *The Guardian*.

At about this time, Gilbert became one of several re-

search assistants to Randolph Churchill, whose official biography of his father was proceeding slowly. Gilbert tells delightful anecdotes about this period, such as the occasion when Jonathan Aitken — then an Oxford undergraduate, now Chief Secretary to the Treasury — was put forward by Randolph to be a Tory candidate after a local MP died, with the Churchill research team ordered to canvass for him. It turned out that Aitken was too young to sit as an MP; instead he became private secretary to Selwyn Lloyd.

After Randolph Churchill's premature death, Gilbert was appointed official biographer of Winston Churchill in 1968. In that year he published volume three of the life, the first to be entirely his work. Gilbert maintained an Olympian neutrality towards his subject, but his deep sympathy was evident from the first.

He quickened the pace of a project that was in danger of grinding to a halt, but it took

until 1988 — by which time he had published another five volumes, together with dozens of companion volumes of documents — before the most magisterial biography of modern times was complete. Since then, he has written a short one-volume life of Churchill and rebutted attempts by revisionist historians to undermine Churchill's reputation.

Meanwhile, Gilbert had published several impressive works of scholarship quite apart from his best-known specialism. He is a leading authority on the Nazi extermination of the Jews: his vast work, *The Holocaust*, appeared in 1985. Since 1989, he has also published (to much acclaim) his histories of the two world wars. He has also written many works on the Middle East.

Gilbert's books have been criticised for leaving out his own voice: his defence is that he always lets the witnesses speak for themselves.

Major's Boswell, page 1

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Critics brush off actor's 'cerebrally challenged' verbal attack at Olivier awards ceremony

# Thespians praise Slattery's outspoken performance

BY DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE morning after the night that Tony Slattery insulted the critics, fellow thespians were awarding him medals for having said what they had only ever rehearsed in their wildest dreams. The four critics who had been the butt of the actor-comedian's attacks at the Laurence Olivier awards ceremony on Sunday were putting on a brave face and brushing off the comments.

How anyone could have used a four-letter expletive to describe one critic and another "barking bloody mad" was the talking-point of the theatre world yesterday. After bottling up years of anger, actors saw it as the critics getting a taste of their own medicine.

As one said: "Those critics have really wounded so many people. For years they have been civilly cruel."

Susan Hampshire said: "I didn't hear anyone complaining about what he said. What a brave and extraordinary thing to do. His livelihood is working in theatre and TV, yet here he was laying himself on the line and saying what he felt, perhaps jeopardising his livelihood. It was dangerous. You had to admire his panache. All our livelihoods are in the hands of these



Tony Slattery, left, was loudly applauded by the actresses Susan Hampshire and Sheila Gish for his robust abuse of critics including Nicholas de Jongh

critics." She said that critics were extremely sensitive. "If they ever have some criticism they always have a letter published the next day." She said, however, that the four-letter word that had "everyone falling out of their chair" at the ceremony was over the top.

Sheila Gish applauded Slattery's performance: "I love Tony Slattery.

I've seldom laughed so much. He certainly got a lot of sympathy. I think every actor feels helpless in the teeth of critics. You can never answer back, should you want to. So when someone does it for you ... She said they "clutched each other and screamed" as Slattery spoke. She lamented the absence of a critic such as Kenneth Tynan.

Some of today's critics "sometimes write as if something's the God-given truth rather than their opinion. As an actor, you have to be terribly sanguine about them."

Slattery was unrepentant: "I was joking, to get a laugh straight away. But I believe everything I said." He spoke of his distaste for critics who leave before the end of a

play. Nicholas de Jongh, of the *Evening Standard*, whom Slattery described with the four-letter word, said: "I've no objection to Tony Slattery trying to slag me off. The critics dish it out, so if actors want to say something ... But it was a little cerebrally challenged. I've never even spoken to him. I'm not hurt, not even remotely. He's

perhaps exceptionally sensitive. I don't remember my review of his performance in *Radio Times* being extreme, or *Neville's Island*. "I look on these things neutrally. Berkoff once threatened to kill me ten years ago face to face. That didn't affect my view of Berkoff. Now I'm very good friends. It's a difficult job being an actor. You

need nerves of steel. It's a precarious life. Some of them get emotional."

Maureen Paton, of the *Daily Express*, whom Slattery said was more likely to be found in a pub than the theatre, said she had never met him before that night.

"I made a point of introducing myself afterwards," she said. "We got on very well. I think he just plucked names at random. He didn't seem to be embarrassed. He seemed to have forgotten what he had said. So I was happy to forget it." Recalling reviews of Slattery's work, she said her review of *Radio Times* noted: "I grieve for the actors." Slattery was the lead actor. In spite of her surprise, she insisted that the comments would not colour her next review. "You'd be quickly found out if you made it a personal vendetta," she said.

Peter Hepple, consultant editor of *The Stage* and secretary of the Critics' Circle, said that the attack on Paton was quite slanderous, and those on the other critics were "jokes in bad taste — a startling way to start off the evening, even though they got a big laugh." But, he added: "I can't imagine the Critics' Circle making official representations. That is almost beneath us."

Benedict Nightingale, page 16

## Head appoints counsellor to help pupils with stress

BY KATE ALDERSON

AN INNER-CITY school has appointed a counsellor to help pupils, some as young as 11, cope with stress and depression.

Pupils at Stretford High School, Manchester, will be offered counselling on subjects ranging from bullying and drugs to family problems and overwork in what is believed to be the first full-time programme in the country. Teachers at the mixed comprehensive school have long dealt with pupils' problems but determined there was a growing need for professional counselling. Ian Atkinson, the headmistress of the 700-pupil school, said that teachers did not necessarily have the specialist skills to deal with children's problems, which they may not fully understand.

"Pupils are not just suffering from the stress of completing coursework and exams while in the classroom," Mrs Atkinson said. "They may suffer bullying in the playground, taunts from their peer group. Outside school they may find themselves caught up in the drug culture, which affects schoolchildren everywhere, and may also have severe problems at home with their families."

The early decisions that children must make about their careers and jobs, the competitive workplace and the pressure to succeed, had all conspired to increase anxiety levels, she said. "Teachers and other professionals have begun to recognise that the problems facing children in and out of school have to be

confronted and dealt with," she added.

Pupils' families and teachers will be encouraged to use the counselling service, which is free and will cost the school £16,000 a year. Many other schools had asked if they could use the counsellor's services on a part-time basis, the headmistress said.

The school's plans were announced a week after the *Melody Maker* pop music paper disclosed that it was inundated with letters from depressed teenagers. The letters appear prompted by the loss of Kurt Cobain of the group Nirvana, who shot himself last year, and Richey James of the Manic Street Preachers, who has disappeared. In letters to the paper, many young readers have spoken of their problems with anorexia and depression, self-mutilation or feelings of self-loathing. Editorial staff were so overwhelmed with such letters that they have been putting readers in touch with the Samaritans.

Mrs Atkinson said her school's counselling programme had not been established in response to clinical depression but to deal with the general stress of daily life.

Richard Palfreman, regional secretary for the National Union of Teachers in the North West, said that the union would monitor the success of the scheme. "While there are no hard and fast figures on stress and depression suffered by pupils, the anecdotal evidence I have from members is that it is increasing."

## 'Failing' school wins reprieve

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE first state school identified as having failed under the new inspection regime escaped the threat of a takeover by a government team yesterday. Brookside special school in Derby was judged by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) to have made "substantial" progress since a damning inspectors' report 16 months ago.

The verdict came as Conservative backbenchers expressed impatience at the apparent reluctance of Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to send in "hit squads" to bad schools. Mrs Shephard has yet to use powers under the 1993 Education Act to send teams of experienced head teachers and businessmen into schools judged to be failing their pupils.

Instead, the 38 schools so far identified as inadequate have been left to implement plans drawn up with their local education authority, subject to Ofsted monitoring.

When the legislation came into force 18 months ago, ministers said they would not hesitate to order education associations to take over

some of the worst schools. Eric Forth, the Education Minister, said at the time: "There may be cases where we will say 'we will give you a year' but when a school is a complete shambles that would be almost defeating the purpose of the exercise."

However, Ofsted disclosed last week that department officials are setting a target of two years for most schools to show an improvement.

□ **Servisair**, the UK airport ground handling company, has recommended a final dividend of 2.5p, in line with its forecast at the time of flotation last October, bringing the notional full year dividend to 3.8p.

□ **Signor Silvio Fagiolo** has not retired (report, March 29) and is serving as the Italian Minister in Washington.

□ It was Lord Gray who introduced the debate (March 27) in the House of Lords on the ending of the West Highland rail sleeper service.



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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

# Superbug in danger of winning war with hospital drugs

By Nigel Hawkes  
Science Editor

A BACTERIUM resistant to all antibiotics could soon emerge in hospital wards, a specialist said yesterday.

The "superbug" of the next few years could be *Staphylococcus aureus*, a meeting of the Society for General Microbiology was told. Hospitals are already under severe pressure from a strain of the bacterium known as MRSA—methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. About 130 hospitals have reported problems this year, and last year at least 60 people died in West Midlands hospitals after infection with MRSA.

Until now, infections caused by MRSA, such as pneumonia and septicaemia, have been treated with another antibiotic, vancomycin. But Professor Hans Zachner told the meeting at Bath University that some strains had developed resistance to this drug.

Specialists have long dreaded the appearance of a vancomycin-resistant strain.



*Staphylococcus aureus*

which would leave them helpless to treat patients. The fact that such strains had been reported meant, he said, that "it should only be a matter of time before multiple resistance develops".

Some common bacteria contain up to ten genes conferring antibiotic resistance, he said. There are 150 antibiotics but they attack a limited number of sites on bacteria, so that resistance to one means resistance to many.

The massive spread of resistant strains could be prevented if there were new antibiotics reaching different

targets every eight to ten years, but this was not the case, Professor Zachner, of the University of Tübingen, Germany, said. "We are further away from mastering infectious diseases than we were 25 years ago," he said. "Programmes on controlling tuberculosis and malaria have been broken off. Infectious disease wards have been reduced. And the time allowed to infectious diseases in medical training has been reduced to an unacceptable degree."

He called for a more adventurous research policy. This should include re-examining older products and widening the spectrum of antibiotics that had never been used clinically because their activity was believed to be too limited. Genetic engineering should be used to create "hybrid antibiotics". But even if all these things were done, he doubted that doctors could control infections "if we continue to use antibiotics as we have in the past".

Body and Mind, page 14



Susan Christie in Belfast city centre recently where she is allowed to do office work before her release

## Parents condemn day-release for daughter's killer

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

THE parents of Penny McAllister, who was lured to a forest where her husband's lover cut her throat, have condemned the decision to release Susan Christie, their daughter's killer, on a day-work scheme less than three years after she was convicted.

Desmond and Norma Squire said they felt society had let them down after it was disclosed that Christie, 26, was working five days a week in Belfast as she prepared for her release from prison in September.

Christie, a former Greenfinch in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was sentenced at Downpatrick Crown Court in June 1992 to five years' imprisonment. She was convicted of the manslaughter of Penny McAllister on the ground of diminished responsibility. Christie's sentence was later increased to nine years by the Court of Appeal.

She travels every weekday from Maghaberry Prison, Co Down, to an office job in the centre of Belfast. Before she began her job earlier this year

Christie's probation officer took her to a shopping centre in Belfast to buy clothes with an allowance from the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

The Squires said Christie's partial release had revived painful memories. Christie, of Lisburn, Co Antrim, lured Mrs McAllister to a Co Down forest in March 1991 where she cut her throat with a sharpened paring knife after her lover of eight months, Duncan McAllister, a Royal Signals captain, said he would never divorce his wife.

Mr Squire, a former headmaster, said: "Whatever the prison authorities allow Susan Christie to do over there would not surprise us. She has served a period in prison which we think was just not long enough. We have always said the sentence was wrong."

Alan Shannon, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, denied that Christie was given preferential treatment. The scheme was designed to ensure that inmates did not offend by helping them to find a job.

## Baby girl's abductor still awaits treatment

JULIE KELLEY, the woman who abducted a newborn baby from a Nottingham hospital last year, has received no psychiatric treatment despite it being a condition of her three-year probationary sentence (Richard Ford writes).

Julie Kelley, 22, who snatched four-hour-old Abbie Humphries from Queen's Medical Centre while dressed as a nurse, has not been treated since being sentenced by Nottingham Crown Court in December because of the birth of her own baby in the new year and a delay in finding a hospital bed. She is due to enter a psychiatric hospital this month for a year's treatment.

Michael Morris, her solicitor, said yesterday that it was made clear when Kelley was sentenced that she would not enter hospital immediately because she was pregnant. It was not stated in court when her treatment should start.

He said administrative difficulties, including the funding of her treatment and the availability of a bed, had added to the delay.

## Camelot criticised on naming of winner

By Andrew Pierce

THE Press Complaints Commission has criticised Camelot, the National Lottery operator, over the identification of the £18 million winner.

The commission today rejected complaints against the newspaper that named him in December but issued guidelines to prevent a repetition. They say the size of the prize alone does not justify naming winners who request no publicity, and condemn rewards for information about a winner and press "harassment".

The commission said the press could not be made a "scapegoat" for the identification of winners regardless of what Camelot and winners did. Problems have arisen from the first test of Camelot's privacy arrangements, in which the commission, the press and the public have decided not to pressure any particular newspaper. Camelot disclosed the size of the prize lived in, the size of his family, that he worked in a factory, the newspapers he read, and that he had satellite television.

Brookes: supreme

## TV chef cooks up a winner

SUSAN BROOKES, who presents daily recipes on Granada Television's *This Morning*, won first prize yesterday in an international contest for television cooks. She beat 41 cooks from 32 countries at the first International Festival of Television and Gastronomy, held in the Normandy seaside resort of Deauville.

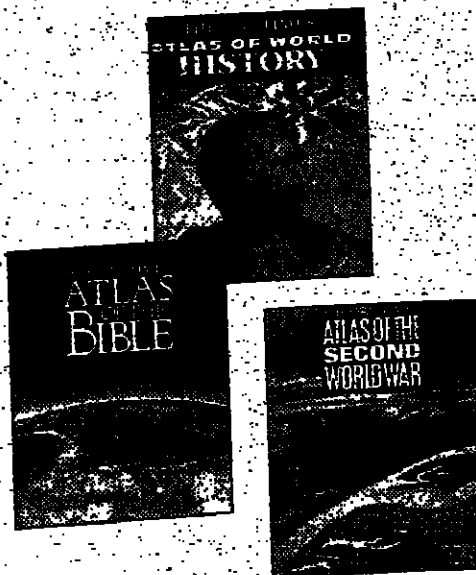
While most rivals presented versions of their national dishes, her prize-winning recipe was for chicken supreme with cider and apples. She used British, not Norman, ingredients.

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## Panorama interview reveals Prime Minister's growing scepticism about single currency

## Britain's independence comes first, says Major

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government would reject a single currency if it threatened Britain's standing as an independent nation state. John Major said last night, signalling his deepening scepticism about economic and monetary union.

"If I had to choose... If I thought it would damage the nation state I would choose the nation state. That is the position of the Conservative Party."

"If anything were to damage the nation state, it would not be for this country. We would not do anything that would damage the nation state."

The Prime Minister's comments came in his BBC *Panorama* interview as he was pressed by David Dimbleby to say whether he agreed with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, that a single currency would not lead to political union. Sidestepping the direct question, Mr Major defended his decision to keep open the

option of Britain joining a single currency towards the end of the century. He said that it was impossible to know what the circumstances might be around 1999 — the earliest practical starting date.

The critical question of whether a single currency would destroy Britain as a nation state hinged on what control the country would have over it. "How is the single currency going to be controlled? What is the input of the British Parliament? To what extent is money policy going to be held abroad? There are a whole range of questions. As yet we don't have the answer to those questions, so one can form a judgment on suppositions, but we don't know the answers yet."

"No one has ever said that we can give a guarantee there will never be a single currency... We have said we will look at what is in the British

national interest, if and when the circumstance arises, and we will make a judgment then and, at that stage, we will also consider whether it might be appropriate to have a referendum."

## EXECUTIVE PAY

Mr Major said that people had been against the windfall gains received by the directors of privatised utilities. "Now that's happened — the horse has got out of that particular stable. But I think we need to look at it for the future."

He went on: "It is the business of the shareholders and what I think we will happen at the end of the day is that we will actually look at shareholders' powers. I think that may well be one of the things that comes out of the Greenbury Committee." The bill that the directors had helped themselves out of was the shareholders' till. It would

not make a halfpenny of difference to the public. He made plain that the Government would learn from what had happened in the utilities as it proceeded with rail privatisation.

## FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Mr Major said the growth of the last year produced a "feel-good" factor for the 600,000 unemployed who found jobs. "What has not happened yet is that people are not feeling the fruits of growth back in their incomes."

Nothing, he said, would do more good for the "feel-good" factor than Britain beginning to outperform many of its rivals. Putting Britain in a position to compete and win up to the millennium and beyond had some uncomfortable side-effects... The old "feel-good" factor was based on lots more money in people's pockets, often more than was



John Major in his television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby last night

good for the economy, and house prices soaring way above the rate of inflation. "Those things often did create an artificial feel-good factor but it was often the prelude to one hell of a hangover the next day." The next time it would not have that old artificial feeling.

Challenged about his poor

standing in the opinion polls, he said: "I expect to stay here leading the Conservative Party right up to the election and through the election and I expect that we will win that election."

He said that the present growth was "not just a casual recovery" and that his economic policies were designed

for the long term. "Now I could have sought from time to time fairly cheap and populist measures. I could have put aside decisions that needed to be taken in order to remain popular. But I chose not to do that."

"If I were popular today, I would not have done what I should have done over the last

6 We would not do anything to damage the nation state 9

three years. I'll let people judge me at the general election."

Asked about the ministers who have resigned in recent years, Mr Major said: "I know the people concerned. I see a more rounded picture of them than the rather bowdlerised version that so often appeared when they ran into difficulties."

"Now we are not a court of morals. I expect people to have high public standards and I can understand that people are upset by some of the behaviour they saw. That is not typical of politicians. It is not typical of the Conservative Party or Government."

Asked whether any member of the Government who committed adultery should resign, Mr Major said: "I expect members of the Government to behave themselves but I am not making a generalisation."

## American workfare under scrutiny

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMONS investigation of American workfare next week is likely to inflame the debate over prospects for a similar scheme in Britain.

A team of MPs will travel to America next weekend to study the effects of workfare, in which unemployed people have to work for state benefits. Right-wing ministers are keen to adopt the idea.

The visit to New York, Washington and New Jersey by the Commons Employment Select Committee is expected to lead to a showdown between the MPs and Michael Forth, the Employment Secretary, who is a leading supporter of workfare.

However, Labour committee members believe that pilot schemes being considered by Mr Forth and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, are very different from those run in America. They fear that the planned British version would be a negative system without the job guarantees made in America.

The 11-strong committee, led by Greville Janner, its Labour chairman, will visit schemes in New Jersey and will meet leading welfare experts and politicians in Washington.

Mr Lilley is understood to be keen to extend the trial schemes operated in Norfolk. When he gave evidence to the committee in January, however, he was reluctant to spell out his plans and warned MPs that the costs of a national programme might be prohibitive. Pilot schemes in areas in selected areas of unemployment are another option.

Mr Forth, who is expected to be directly responsible, will be pressed to outline his proposals when he gives evidence to the committee, probably next month.

## MPs told of MoD 'sting' theory

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON FOXLEY, the former Ministry of Defence official convicted of a £1.3 million fraud, was probably involved in a "sting" from which the companies that bribed him received no benefit, MPs were told yesterday.

Foxley was convicted in 1993 on 12 counts of receiving corrupt payments from three companies: Gebroeder Jungs, of Germany, Fratelli Borletti of Italy and Ranfors of Norway.

But Dr Malcolm McIntosh, chief of procurement in the MoD, told the Public Accounts Committee that there was no evidence that Foxley had been able to influence contracts in the companies' favour. Foxley was probably involved in "one of the biggest stings we have seen in some time", he said.

As a result of the Foxley case, and 190 other cases of alleged procurement fraud over the past ten years, many MoD officials had been moved to other duties. These included most officials with power and influence over contracts who had held the same job for more than five years.

Dr McIntosh admitted that the Foxley fraud should have been detected earlier. It had been known at an early stage that Foxley was living well beyond the salary of an official at his level, but little suspicion was aroused because his wife was thought to have independent means.

MoD officials were still pursuing the case but had been unable to gain access to some of the Swiss bank accounts that Foxley used. Dr McIntosh said that the true extent of the fraud might never be known.

## Ministers praised for pools boost

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government's belated decision to cut pools betting duty was welcomed in the Commons last night as a critical boost for an industry hit badly by the National Lottery.

From next month pools companies will have their tax cut from 37.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent — worth about £30 million in 1995-96. The changes have been made in the Finance Bill, which enacts last November's Budget.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Paymaster General, said that he had been lobbied extensively by the pools companies, which were floundering because of the new competition. The cuts would enable them to continue contributing to the Football Trust, which supports improvements

to grounds, and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

Hilary Armstrong (Lab, Durham North West) warned ministers that the pools companies might come under threat again. "I hope that the Government will keep a very close eye on this. The British public will be horrified if the lottery company makes such excessive profits while charities are seen to be falling because of the activities of the lottery."

Lady Olga Maitland (C, Sutton and Cheam) said that giving the money back to the pools companies was like throwing a lifeline to a drowning man. "This move has now given them a chance to regroup, retrain and hopefully move into more fortunate times."

## IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to transport ministers; the Public Accounts Committee; the Commons Commission and the Leader of the House. Debate on the Finance Bill, report stage. In the Lords: debate on the Jobseekers Bill.

to employment ministers and the Prime Minister, with Tony Newton, Leader of the House, answering for John Major. Debates on the Finance Bill, retaining stages, and the Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula Regulations. In the Lords: debate on Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Bill.

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# Secret KGB letters 'solve' the riddle of Hitler's bones

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE riddle of Hitler's bones, for years the source of morbid fascination, appears to have been solved by the discovery of secret correspondence between Yuri Andropov, the late KGB chief, and Leonid Brezhnev.

According to *Der Spiegel*, the remains of Hitler, his mistress Eva Braun, his propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels and the Goebbels family, were taken from the Nazi leadership's Berlin bunker and buried in Magdeburg. In the spring of 1970, Andropov, apparently afraid that the bones might one day be an object of neo-Nazi pilgrimage, ordered that the old ammunition boxes containing the remains be taken to a Soviet tank and artillery training ground. There they were buried.

The reason for the move was that the original burial place was about to be handed over to the East Germans. Andropov's handwritten notes suggest that the KGB chairman (and later Soviet leader) was deeply nervous about Germany. Ostpolitik and the new intimacy between East and West German leaders.

Willy Brandt, then Chancellor of West Germany, had recently visited Erfurt and was greeted by cheers and loud applause from East Germans. Restless Germans and the sudden discovery of Hitler's body could have added up to an unpredictable mixture in the view of Andropov and Vladimir Kryuchkov, his head of Cabinet who was later to emerge as one of the plotters against Mikhail Gorbachev.

Brezhnev agreed that Hitler's body should be destroyed. In the middle of the night of April 4, 1970, Soviet soldiers erected a tent over the unmarked grave and five KGB officers dug up the boxes. The five decaying improvised coffins were driven away and burnt. The *Der Spiegel* story is well-supported by documents and by the evidence of Mr Kryuchkov, who is now a pensioner living in Moscow.

There was always a hint of mystery about Hitler's last resting-place, if only because it was clear that Stalin did not quite believe in the death of the Nazi leader. The Russians had liberated the Berlin bunker and had captured the most useful witnesses, including Johann Rattenhuver, Hitler's

bodyguard, SS adjutant Otto Günsche, Hans Baur, his pilot, and Katarina Heusermann, a dental assistant.

In an effort to give Stalin a definitive verdict on Hitler's death, they were interrogated for almost a year. James O'Donnell, author of *The Berlin Bunker*, witnessed the return to Berlin of these and other witnesses in the summer of 1946. By Stalin's order all the members of the Hitler entourage were forced to re-enact the last hours of Hitler's life. The performance was filmed.

Later all the German captives were flown back to the Soviet Union and sent to different labour camps. The Western allies also had witnesses from the last days in the bunker, but their story, although convincingly pieced together by Hugh Trevor-Roper, was incomplete. *Der Spiegel* says it has found the last piece of the jigsaw.

Half a century on, German neo-Nazis are planning to disrupt the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the end of the Second World War and have called on all right-wing extremists to launch a "civil war" on foreign and Jewish



A Russian sign barring entry to the former Soviet camp in Magdeburg where Hitler's remains are said to have been buried before their final destruction.

citizens living in Germany. The appeal, several hundred copies of which have been distributed in the post, came days after a crackdown on about 80 flats throughout the country. Many rifles and pistols and much Nazi propaganda material was seized. A follow-up police operation in the eastern German state of Thuringia was regarded as a warning to neo-Nazis not to protest against the impending anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald concentration

camp, near Weimar. Gary Lauck, an American neo-Nazi propagandist, was arrested in Denmark two weeks ago and a decision is expected tomorrow as to whether he can be extradited to Germany. The neo-Nazi problems re-

fect a deeper difficulty: whether Germans should celebrate the end of the war as a liberation from Nazi rule or as a national defeat. The standard view is that May 8 was a liberation. But more than 200 leading conservatives have

signed an open letter saying that the end of the war was a time of great suffering for Germany because of the 11 million ethnic Germans forced out of the East.

Hitler's secret, page 16

## Le Pen emerges as wild card in French presidential race

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE FRENCH presidential campaign has offered a big dose of the unexpected, with three front-runners succeeding in the favour of the crown since last autumn. A further surprise has now emerged further down the field: the revival of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the veteran candidate of the far right and leader of the National Front party.

Dismissed until lately as a ghost from an ugly past, M Le Pen, is harvesting support for his anti-foreigner platform that could take him over the 14.5 per cent which he earned in his second round for the presidency in 1988. "This time we could even break through to 20 per cent," an optimistic M Le Pen told *The Times* as he consented to be questioned by a British newspaper on French television. With his famous mix of blue-eyed charm and physical menace, M Le Pen noted that foreign correspondents would be exempted from his plan to pitch three million non-French out of the country in the interests of preserving Gallic jobs and racial purity.

At 66 and after four decades on the unsavoury side of French politics, the pugnas M Le Pen is revelling in his status as a candidate with clout whose favour will count especially in the event of a showdown in the second round run-off between the duelling Gaullists Jacques Chirac and Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister. For the moment, however, M Le Pen will have none of either, nor of Lionel Jospin, the Socialist, as he tours the country railing at the establishment clique which he says is leading France to destruction from abroad and from within through corruption and the spread of Aids. "This

is just a contest between a bunch of *Enarques*," said M Le Pen, referring to the French race monopolised by graduates of the Ecole Nationale de l'Administration, the nursery of the technocrat elite. "They all hail from the bureaucracy they spend their time denouncing while France is going to the dogs."

M Le Pen, whose party scored 11 per cent in the European elections last year after peaking in the mid-1980s, owes his new wind to a coincidence of factors. He is benefiting from disillusion-

ment with all the mainstream candidates and anxiety among shopkeepers, artisans and the unemployed young in the face of France's social crisis. He has been helped by the exclusion of Bernard Tapie, the populist tycoon, now bankrupt, who appeals to a similar public, especially in the south. He is also being helped by new rules which force the television networks that long ostracised him, to give him air time in proportion to his support.

Also helping him is a mellowing of the public persona. No longer the fire-breath-

ing provocateur surrounded by bully-boys, M Le Pen, a former paratrooper officer, has polished his powerful orator's skills, casting himself as a common man who voices ideas that are normally only heard in the corner bistro. "At least I have lived a real life," he said, referring to his origins as the son of a Breton trawlerman killed in the war. "The others say they have suffered when they have spent the day on the ski slopes and done without lunch."

If M Le Pen has failed to shed his sulphurous image and win the respectability accorded in Italy to Gianfranco Fini and his National Alliance, it is because his message still remains one of raw xenophobia. Preaching a nostalgic gospel with echoes of the anti-Semitism of the 1930s, he blames foreigners for taking French jobs and for crime. Aids and drug abuse, he promises to expel three million immigrants and instate a "national preference" which will give employment to those of French blood. "The subject is taboo for the other candidates," he tells cheering crowds. "It's politically incorrect so they rush ahead into a vague idea of Europe and the wiping out of France without knowing what is going to replace it."

M Le Pen's efforts to rival the front-runners have been dented by his reaction to the shooting of a schoolboy from the Comoros islands by National Front campaign workers near Marseilles. Refusing to condemn their act on Sunday, he told a crowd of 4,000 at Aix-en-Provence that at least it had created France to the fact that there were 125,000 Comorans now in the country.

Leading article, page 17



Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, is welcomed to an "overseas festival" in Paris

## Italian doctors ban 'granny-mum' births

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN doctors who enable post-menopausal women to undergo artificial pregnancies may be struck off under a new code of ethics introduced by Italy's Order of Doctors yesterday in a response to the Pope's latest encyclical.

The code also bans rent-a-womb births, artificial procreation for lesbians and insemination with sperm from a dead donor. The Italian Catholic Bishops' Conference

said yesterday that it was pleased with the decision taken by the national council of the Order of Doctors meeting in Florence. It came after the publication by the Vatican last week of the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) in which the Pope said mankind was in the middle of a dramatic clash between "the culture of death and the culture of life" and reiterated Church teaching against genetic engineering and test-tube babies. The move, which was welcomed

by politicians across the spectrum, outraged Severino Antinori, the Italian doctor who has pioneered techniques of artificially induced pregnancy for elderly women, including some who have come from Britain to benefit from Italy's legislative vacuum on many controversial bio-ethical issues.

Dr Antinori said, "I will go forward all the same. This is a Nazi-Maoist ethic."

Under the decision Italian doctors will face disciplinary measures, ultimately includ-

ing being struck off, if they participate in "practices of assisted fertilisation for women in non-precocious menopause".

The age of 50 is set as an average limit to artificial pregnancies of this kind, to avoid creating more *mamme nonne* (granny-mums) such as Liliana Cantadori, who became the first woman in Italy to give birth at 61. Last year a 63-year-old woman treated by Dr Antinori, Rosanna Della Corte, gave birth to a son, Riccardo.



Seles, knifed in the back during match

## Seles fails to get her assailant jailed

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MONICA SELES, the tennis player, failed yesterday in her attempt to have Günther Parche jailed for stabbing her two years ago when an appeal court upheld a two-year suspended prison sentence.

The assailant remains free after District Judge Gertraud Göering in Hamburg upheld the sentence passed in October 1993 on Parche, unemployed, who knifed Miss Seles in the back during a tennis tournament so that his idol, the German tennis player Steffi Graf, could be No 1 in the world. Miss Seles, 21, who was not in court, has not played professional tennis since then. "I am as surprised as everyone else, and I just don't understand this," she said after yesterday's verdict. She and the prosecutors had appealed against Parche's conviction on a charge of serious bodily injury, asking for a conviction of attempted manslaughter, and a prison term.

Police officers and psychiatrists said that, aside from his fixation on Miss Graf and Miss Seles, Parche was harmless. Rolf Rosenkranz, the prosecutor, had acknowledged that he was not previously aggressive. But Herr Rosenkranz said that Parche, 40, should be imprisoned because he had carefully planned the attack, because it was carried out in public, and was in part based on political prejudice.

Parche had spoken of his dislike of Serbs and claimed he only wanted to hurt his victim. Miss Seles, an ethnic Hungarian, was born in the Serbian area of Yugoslavia and is now an American citizen.

## UN officer wounded in Serb attack on 'safe area'

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

SERB troops fired shells into the Bihac "safe area" for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, wounding a United Nations officer and testing the strategy of the new peacekeeping commander.

Five shells landed in the city centre yesterday morning and shrapnel hit an unarmed Dutch officer in the head, wounding him slightly.

The area was hit repeatedly during the weekend and three other "safe areas" have come under Serb heavy weapons' fire in the past two weeks.

UN officials believe the incidents are part of a deliberate plan to step up pressure on the peacekeepers and Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who assumed the post at the end of January.

General Smith has responded by repeatedly calling for a meeting with General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander, but for

nearly three weeks his aides have said he is too busy to meet his UN counterpart.

UN spokesmen suggested that Sunday's attack on the Bihac "safe area" was justified because the shells fell near a police station, and could therefore be considered part of the combat in the area.

Ten days ago, shelling of the Gorazde "safe area" wounded sixteen civilians and killed one. Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader, had said the town was attacked in response to Bosnian Army offensives elsewhere. An internal UN report justified the organisation's lack of response to that incident by saying that the Serbs had been aiming for a barracks.

A Nato ultimatum, issued nearly one year ago, threatens the Serbs with air raids if they bring heavy weapons inside a 12-mile zone around Gorazde or fire on the town. UN commanders believe, howev-

er, that enforcing the ultimatum and Security Council resolutions would prompt Serb retaliation against peacekeepers. The result is a mission increasingly paralysed by Serb provocation. A UN official said it was unlikely that attacks on the "safe areas" would be met by force. However, on Sunday British UN patrols in Gorazde had two fierce exchanges of machine-gun fire with Serb troops, after they were attacked.

Three seized: Serbian Serb soldiers have seized two UN journalists and a German aid worker in two separate incidents outside Sarajevo, the UN said yesterday. The journalists were abducted from a UN vehicle and the German was taken after making a wrong turn. "The Serbs have been holding five French aid workers for more than a month, after they were arrested at the same checkpoint."

## Russians develop torpedo propelled by rocket power

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Russians are developing a rocket-powered torpedo, codenamed Shkval (or squall), which can travel underwater at 200 knots (226mph), surrounded by a vacuum bag.

Design work for this new concept in underwater missile technology is being carried out at the Moscow Serbo Ordzhonikidze Aviation Institute, according to *Jane's Intelligence Review* in a newsletter to be published this month.

Under the normal laws of hydrodynamics, it would be virtually impossible to achieve such velocity because of the drag of the seawater, Robert Hall, editor of the *Jane's* newsletter, said yesterday. He said, however, that the hydro-aerospace systems department of the institute in Moscow appeared to have overcome the problem by eliminating the torpedo's "physical contact with the water".

A member of the institute has described the new weapon as an "underwater missile which in motion is in a so-called vacuum bag that is underwater but not in the water". Mr Hall said it was possible that the vacuum bag

might be a low-pressure gas envelope. "One method might be to eject streams of high-speed bubbles from the head of the torpedo, although this would require a large pressurised gas cylinder within the torpedo," he said. The West's latest models can go no faster than 60 knots.

The Shkval torpedo was mentioned in the latest edition of *Military Parade*, a defence procurement brochure. There was also a reference on Moscow television last June to an underwater missile that could travel at up to "100 metres a second".

Richard Sharpe, editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, doubted whether the torpedo would become operational. He said it would go through the water "like a banshee", making so much noise that it would be relatively easy for a targeted ship to take evasive action.

The Russians have developed a torpedo that guides itself by homing in on the wake of a surface warship. It approaches its target by zig-zagging across the sea. That torpedo is in service and is believed to have been sold to the Iranians.

## Backing for EU over whisky tax

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

MICHAEL HESLITINE, the President of the Board of Trade, yesterday came out in support of the European Commission in its attempt to launch action against Japan over discriminatory taxes on Scotch whisky and other spirits. Whisky and brandy continue to be taxed between four and six times more heavily than Shochu.

Sir Leon Brian, the Trade Commissioner, announced that the Commission will start a procedure under which Japan may be dragged in front of the new World Trade Organisation.

Its predecessor organisation, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, had already ruled in 1987 that Japan should not discriminate between spirits made in Japan and abroad, but Japan has so far not fully complied with the ruling, according to the EU.

Mr Hesliline, on a rare visit to Brussels, said he was "pleased" that the Commission has finally decided to act.

## Farmer's field-day on Falklands is historic mission

A DEER farmer, a property developer, a hairdresser and a hypnotist are among more than 200 part-time soldiers currently responsible for guarding the Falkland Islands (Michael Evans writes).

Eight-thousand miles away from their normal jobs, the 214 members of a Territorial Army infantry company group have completed the first month of an historic four-month mission. It is the first fully operational deployment

of a TA company. Under the command of Major Adrian Walton, a deer farmer in civilian life, the TA soldiers are responsible for providing the ground defence of the South Atlantic islands against a repeat invasion by Argentina.

Although the Falklands' garrison includes soldiers from the regular Army, they have other roles such as mine clearance, signals, transport and logistics. It is the first time that the TA,

and not a regular infantry company, has been put in charge of guarding the Falkland Islands.

Major Walton said yesterday that the presence of the Territorials in the Falklands did not mean Britain was "downplaying" the role of the military in the South Atlantic. He said: "It is important that the islanders don't see it as a down-valuing. This releases other troops for tasks like Bosnia. This is a particularly arduous posting. It is

not money for old rope." The part-time soldiers, recruited mainly from TA units in the northwest of England, the Midlands and Wales, go out on regular patrols and live at the formidable Mount Pleasant garrison about 30 miles from Port Stanley, the capital. They arrived last month, and their presence in the Falklands is part of the Ministry of Defence's plan to give Britain's reserve forces an expanded role.

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# Russia rejects US plea to abandon Iran nuclear deal

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THIS Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, last night dismissed an appeal by William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, to cancel a planned sale of nuclear reactors to Iran.

The Russian Government did not agree to change their position to proceed with that sale, Mr Perry said in Moscow after talks with Mr Chernomyrdin. He said Russia had acknowledged his concern that Tehran might use spent reactor fuel and technology from the \$1 billion (\$617 million) sale to develop nuclear arms, and said he disagreed with Mr Chernomyrdin that tight controls could prevent this.

"I told him I did not share that confidence," Mr Perry said, adding that American and Russian officials would continue discussions in the next few weeks, including proposals for safeguards on spent fuel that can be enriched for nuclear arms.

The rebuff to Mr Perry came after the Clinton Administration had taken the rare step of sharing sensitive intelligence with Moscow as part of its increasingly urgent efforts to dissuade Russia

from building nuclear reactors for the Iranians. Intelligence reports detail concerted Iranian attempts to buy enriched uranium from former Soviet republics such as Kazakhstan, and vital nuclear components from Germany and other European nations, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

The Administration insists that Iran has no need for the reactors given its wealth of fossil fuels, and says it is really after expertise, technology and fissionable material to accelerate its nuclear weapons programme. Washington estimates that Iran will have an atomic bomb within five to ten years.

As a further inducement to Moscow, the United States is reportedly offering the Ministry of Atomic Energy tens of millions of dollars to help it to clean up old nuclear sites and build modern reactors in Russia. This would provide work to compensate for the loss of the Iranian contract. Washington is also considering whether Russia could help to build the two new reactors worth \$4 billion that an American-led consortium is planning to give North Korea. The

proposed Iranian contract has become an irritant in American-Russian relations, with congressmen threatening to end all aid if Moscow does not relent. President Clinton will take up the issue with President Yeltsin at their Moscow summit next month.

On Sunday Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, pointed to Iran's proximity to Russia and warned Moscow that it would "true the day it co-operated with the terrorist state of Iran if Iran builds nuclear weapons with Russian expertise and Russian equipment".

Mr Chernomyrdin's rejection was a bitter pill for Mr Perry and came as Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, announced that Moscow might resort to "counter-measures", including refusal to abide by the 1990 treaty on conventional forces in Europe, if Nato expended into former Soviet bloc states.

Vladimir Shumelko, the chairman of the upper house of Russia's parliament, was reported to have told Mr Perry that parliament was unlikely to ratify the Start II strategic arms reduction treaty quickly because of friction with Nato.

## 'Presidential' Gingrich will toast Republican successes

By MARTIN FLETCHER

THE House of Representatives completes the Contract with America this week, and Republicans and Democrats are already embarking on a propaganda war over whether the first 100 days of Republican rule have been a triumph or disaster.

Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, has struck the first blow. He announced that he would address the nation on Friday, and both CBS and CNN have agreed to broadcast his speech live. Only presidents are normally accorded such a privilege.

Mr Gingrich hopes to borrow a team of elephants - the Republican symbol - from a visiting Ringling Brothers circus to parade around the Capitol. After weeks of self-imposed purdah, he is reappearing on chat shows and giving unrepentant interviews to the "liberal media elite" he professes to despise. Republican congressmen are to stage a rally on the Capitol Hill steps where they signed the Contract last September, and

they will then fan out across the country at Easter to boast of their accomplishments.

Al Gore, the Vice-President, kicked off the Democratic counter-attack last night with a speech to the National Press Club. Trade unions, feminists, environmentalists and a host of other pressure groups who feel threatened by the Republicans will join in this week with multimillion-dollar television advertising campaigns.

The battle lines are obvious.

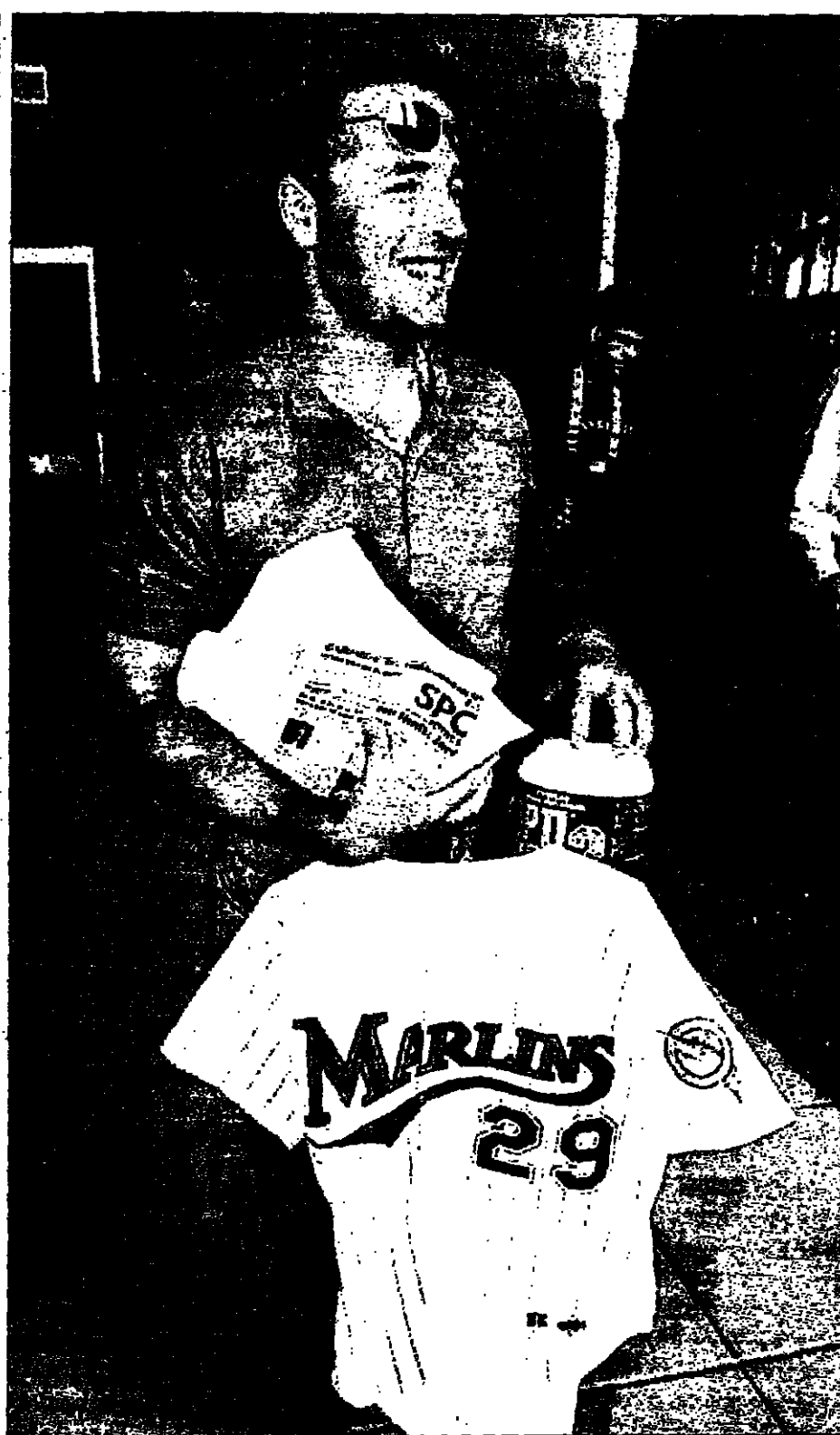


Gingrich: wants to use elephants for celebration

The Republicans will claim dramatic progress towards cutting government, returning power to the states and reforming welfare. The Democrats will paint the Republicans as mean-spirited extremists determined to slash everything from pensions to school lunches to provide tax breaks for the rich.

The outcome is critical. The real challenge for Mr Gingrich and his colleagues comes next month when they begin the painful task of cutting \$120 billion (£750 billion) in public spending over the next seven years to balance the budget. Mr Gingrich calls it a task "so large, so comprehensive and so daring nobody is going to say this is business as usual", and it will be impossible unless the Republicans can win public support.

Polls show the public ambivalent about the Republicans' first 100 days. How much of the Contract will be implemented remains unclear. Of the eight bills passed by the House, the Senate has so far approved just three.



A Florida Marlins replacement, brought in because of the strike, leaves the team stadium

## Baseball season is saved but loyalty of fans falters

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN baseball has returned from the dead after the longest, most expensive and ugliest strike in the history of professional sport.

On Sunday Major League Baseball Owners accepted the players' offer to return to work after a strike lasting 234 days and announced that the season would start 24 days late, on April 26. The strike has cost an estimated \$800 million (£490 million), but the expense in terms of damaged public enthusiasm for America's national pastime is incalculable.

Players such as Bobby Bonilla, of the New York Mets, who earned an estimated

\$6.3 million before the strike, can begin restoring their fortunes, as can the baseball owners, but rebuilding the confidence of millions of enraged fans will take far longer.

The strike, which began on August 12, wiped out the baseball World Series for the first time in 90 years, while fans watched in disbelief and increasing fury the unappealing spectacle of "a few hundred folks trying to figure out how to divide nearly \$2 billion", in the words of President Clinton.

For fans already angered by high ticket prices and the multimillion-dollar salaries

doled out to baseball stars, the greed shown by both sides during the strike was the last straw.

The strike ended when the owners accepted an offer by the players' union to go back to work without a collective bargaining agreement, leaving open the possibility of another strike later in the season if the owners try to impose a salary cap once again. The fragile truce rests largely on wishful thinking. "I think there is an unwritten commitment by both sides that the 1995 season will be played uninterrupted," Peter Angelos, majority owner of the Baltimore Orioles, said.

Many Kurds inside northern Iraq have a quite different focus of concern. Baghdad. We crossed the border for a journey deep inside northern Iraq, where the two main Iraqi Kurdish parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), distance themselves completely from the separatist guerrillas, whom they liken to the Shining Path in Peru.

## Villagers caught in terror cycle of Kurdish conflict

Ann Chwyd, MP, who was dismissed by Tony Blair yesterday after her unauthorised trip to Turkey and northern Iraq as one of Labour's foreign affairs team, describes what she saw of conditions for civilians trapped in the area of conflict

THE village men carried out the dead bodies wrapped in blankets. They unrolled them gently for us to see. One child had an arm crooked as though trying to protect her face. There was blood everywhere. The oldest must have been about 17, the youngest about seven.

The whole family had been asleep in the village of Gorum when terrorists smashed a window and lobbed through a hand grenade. The three girls were killed instantly, the baby's cradle smashed.

Outside all was apparently normal: a cockerel perched on a dung heap and hens pecked away in the sun. But the whole village, high in the rugged mountains on the Turkish side of the border, was in a state of shock. It was the inhabitants said, the second attack by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) on the village in a few days. They demanded better protection from the Turkish Army.

A mile up the road there were hundreds of Turkish soldiers and tanks. We were the only international observers allowed to cross the border at the beginning of the week, at the invitation of Erdal Inonu, the new Social Democratic Foreign Minister.

Part of the problem here is that Turkey's own policies towards its Kurdish minority have created a Kurdish terrorist threat. No one could support the terrorist atrocities, but Turkey has denied basic human rights to moderate Kurds in Turkey, and this in turn has created a breeding ground for Kurdish terrorists. Turkey has lost patience with PKK attacks from inside northern Iraq, and two weeks ago Ankara sent 35,000 troops backed by jets, trucks and artillery to clear a 25-mile strip along the border.

We met one of the captured PKK soldiers at Silepi camp. He was brought to us blindfolded, his arm in a sling. He was a very young man, and very nervous. He told us that he had come from Syria to fight. "All Kurds are our brothers," he whispered.

We spent an afternoon with Turkish soldiers in terrain that reminded me of Snowdonia. The battalion commander showed us a huge cave in the rocks which, we were told, had previously housed dozens of guerrillas. The military also showed us weapons captured from the PKK. Many Kurds inside north-

ern Iraq have a quite different focus of concern. Baghdad. We crossed the border for a journey deep inside northern Iraq, where the two main Iraqi Kurdish parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), distance themselves completely from the separatist guerrillas, whom they liken to the Shining Path in Peru.

At the headquarters of Massoud Barzani, the leader of the KDP in Salihuddin, the message to the Turks was clear: "We want you to finish the invasion quickly and return home". Unfortunately, the Kurds are far from united, even though they have a common enemy in President Saddam Hussein. When I asked Mr Barzani about continuing fighting between his own party and that of the



PUK, he said he was "ashamed" of it. Later that night, under an armed escort provided by the KDP, we tried to reach the headquarters of the PUK, at Erbil. We never reached it. We were forced back by a bombardment coming from Iraq, aimed at Erbil. We telephoned the man we were going to meet, Ahmed Chalabi, on a crackly car phone. He reported that people were fleeing from their villages. "We need help. Please tell the world we need help."

The lesson is that while Western sympathy naturally goes to the Kurds facing Saddam's aggression in northern Iraq, the problems of the Kurds inside Turkey must be addressed so that the causes of Kurdish terrorism against Ankara are eradicated.

Bonn: Germany sharply criticised Turkey for its invasion of northern Iraq. "We don't want to use threats," said Klaus Kinkel, Foreign Minister, after talks with Mr Inonu. "But of course there are levers available."

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## Gangsters 'threaten stability in China'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

ORGANISED crime is threatening China's stability, as Peking's contacts with the rest of the world spread, according to a member of Italy's anti-Mafia parliamentary commission.

Speaking in Peking yesterday, Pino Arlacchi said that conditions for an indigenous mafia were in place. He emphasised that when Hong Kong rejoins China in 1997 the links between the colony's secret societies, the Triads, and their counterparts in China will become even stronger. The Hong Kong gangs are believed to have about 100,000 members.

"To fight Triads, which are the most dangerous form of Chinese organised crime, is difficult," he said, "because of the kind of natural secrecy."

Organised crime is so serious that national newspapers regularly write about it, it is a matter of concern to the country's senior leaders, and a book on the subject was published by two Shanghai specialists last September. Su Zhiliang and Chen Lizi referred to the network as "the cancer of the cities" and compared "these evil forces" to the Shanghai underworld before the 1949 Communist takeover.

The *China Youth Daily* newspaper said smuggling includes gold, cultural relics, firearms and cars - often stolen to order as far away as the United States.



Arlacchi: worried by influence of Triads

## Message in a bottle crosses the Atlantic

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

SEVEN months ago, a group of schoolchildren lamenting the end of their summer holidays put notes with greetings and their names and addresses into a plastic bottle and threw it into the Atlantic at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

They returned home to New Jersey to start a new school year and forgot about the bottle. However, it was carried by the Gulf Stream towards Europe - and was found by Marc Gurun, 11, at de Houst, off the coast of northwest France.

Last month, Jackie Borzo, 14, received a postcard in French from Marc and when her grandmother translated it, she remembered Cape Hatteras. "It's amazing," she said. "I was totally shocked."

Breck Owens of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, said that Cape Hatteras is one of the few places where the 4,000-mile Gulf Stream current comes within a few yards of the coast.

## Japanese hint at Hollywood sale

FROM GILES WHITTRELL IN LOS ANGELES

A LONG-RUNNING battle for control of one of Hollywood's oldest studios appeared to be near resolution yesterday with an acknowledged agreement from Matsushita, the Japanese electronics giant, that it was considering selling part of MCA/United Artists.

At the same time, published reports disclosed that Seagram, the Canadian soft drinks company, is planning

to sell a \$10 billion (£6.5 billion) stake in Du Pont, possibly with a view to acquiring a studio.

The latest shift in Japan's short but hugely expensive relationship with Hollywood was heralded when a meeting scheduled for yesterday between Sydney Scheinberg, MCA's president, and executives from the studio's parent company was abruptly cancelled last week. Mr Scheinberg and Lew Wasserman, the MCA chairman, have chafed under Japanese control since Matsushita bought the studio five years ago. Both men have complained publicly of stringent financial controls and have let it be known that they intend to leave the company when their contracts expire at the end of the year.

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# A Great Black & White Advertisement

Last night, Britain's advertising 'Oscars', the National Newspaper Campaign Advertising Awards took place. The award for best black & white newspaper advertisement of the year was won by Saatchi & Saatchi's 'Junk Mail', part of an anti-racism campaign run by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE). The campaign is called 'Uniting Britain - For a Just Society'. Its aim is to change people's attitudes and make racial discrimination socially unacceptable in Britain.

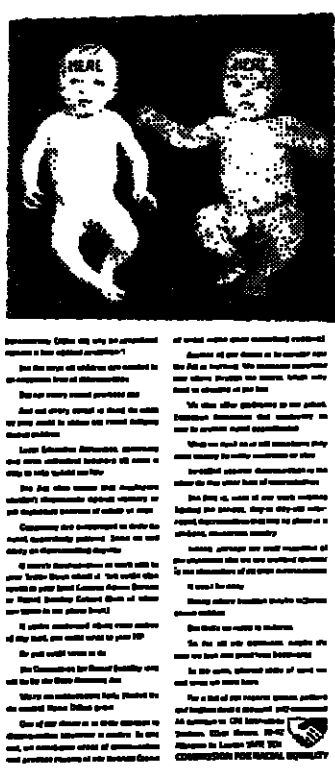
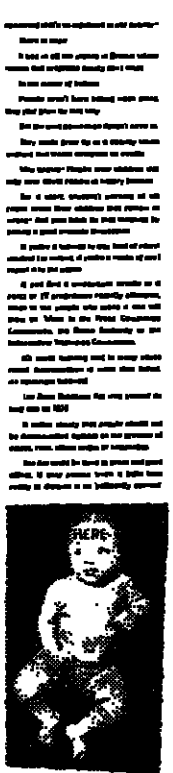
The winning advertisement and two more from the campaign appear below. And Maurice Saatchi Chairman of the judges explains why the panel of national newspaper editors, creative directors and advertisers picked 'Junk Mail' as Britain's best newspaper advertisement. You can support the CRE campaign by calling them on 0171 828 7022.

## THERE ARE LOTS OF PLACES IN BRITAIN WHERE RACISM DOESN'T EXIST.

In so many ways Britain is a racist country. In 1993 alone the police recorded over 8,000 incidents of racial harassment, abuse, assault, even riot. Thousands more incidents go unreported. As many as 120,000 a year, according to the Home Office. Worryingly, even this is still only half the problem.



BABIES

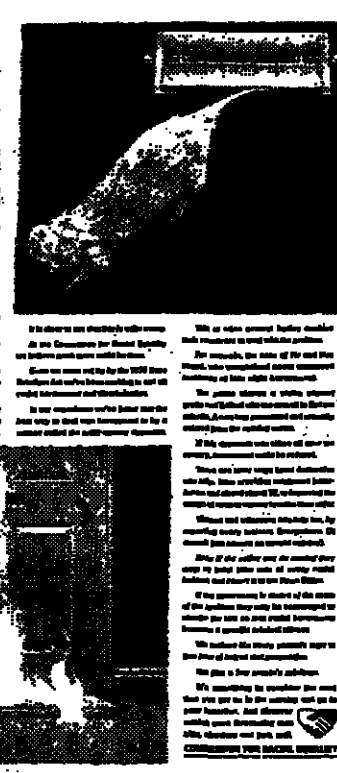
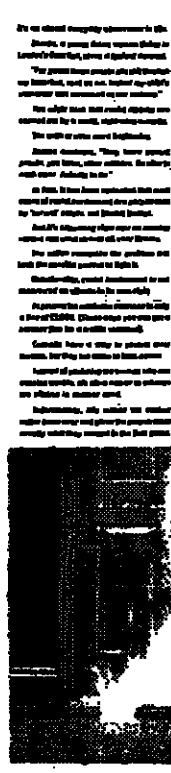


## AND YOU GET ANNOYED ABOUT JUNK MAIL.

Imagine going to your door and finding, there, on the mat, not bills, or a paper, or junk mail, but pieces of dog excrement. As you stare, shocked, a heavy boot kicks the door. Harsh voices outside scream obscenities, telling you to get out, threatening your family. Why are they persecuting you? When will they stop?

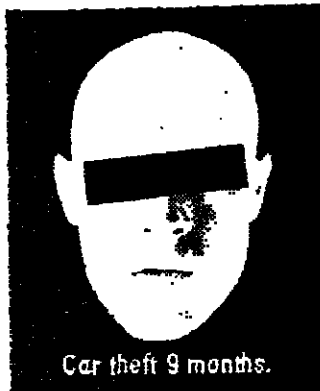


JUNK MAIL



## CRIMINAL ISN'T IT?

A 1992 survey of Midlands courts revealed that some ethnic minorities are receiving longer prison sentences. On average, 10 to 15 months longer than white people for the same crimes. If this is typical, it leads to one simple and rather startling conclusion.



Car theft 9 months.



Car theft 1½ years.

CRIMINALS

MAURICE SAATCHI  
Chairman of the judges

Racism is one of the most difficult subjects for advertising to deal with. Strong prejudices are held, and attitudes are deeply ingrained. It is an enormous tribute to the people at Saatchi & Saatchi who created the campaign, that they were able to tackle racism in a direct and powerful way, but without lecturing or patronising the audience.

As with all top-class advertising ever produced, the message of the CRE's advert is simple and goes straight to the heart. It is an important campaign dealing with an important subject.

Racial discrimination is all too common in Britain today. We can be proud that we live in a nation where people of many different races, cultures and backgrounds can live and work together. But there is still a lot more to be done if we are to get rid of the racism and harassment which affects the daily lives of so many ethnic minorities.

The toughest challenge is to fight racism where it is most deeply fixed, in our own hearts and minds. Changing attitudes is the most difficult part of the process, and it is the part where advertising can have the most powerful influence. The judges of these awards hope that the campaign from the CRE will be another step forward.



The National Newspaper Campaign Advertising Awards are run annually to acknowledge effective and creative advertising in the national press. The aim of the Awards is to demonstrate the power of the press through the best advertisements that have appeared in Britain's national newspapers in the last twelve months. We offer our congratulations to the overall winners, Saatchi & Saatchi, for their campaign for the Commission for Racial Equality which included the Best Black and White advertisement and to Bartle Bogle Hegarty for winning the Best Colour Advertisement for Moët & Chandon.

Aid workers

Bahrain's  
peace talk  
riots and saGaza blast  
sparks call  
for revengeTokyo  
BuddhBomba  
above A



# Aid workers caught in crossfire of Burundi's ethnic conflict

TUTSI extremists in Burundi's coalition Government are manipulating international relief efforts to obtain food for radical militias while perpetuating tribal conflicts which could lead to ethnic bloodletting, aid workers and diplomats said in Bujumbura yesterday.

Led by Antoine Nduwayo, the Prime Minister, the Tutsi extremists have blocked attempts by the United Nations World Food Programme to encourage 200,000 Tutsis living in displaced people's camps under the armed guard of the Tutsi-dominated army, to return to their farms. The UN has provided them with food, seeds and tools, but few have been able to go home.

Acts of intimidation against international aid workers include grenade attacks on a Care employee's car over the weekend, the throwing of a grenade at the Médecins Sans Frontières offices in Kibundi, World Food Programme staff being held hostage and food trucks being

■ The United Nations is trying to encourage displaced Tutsis to return home, against the wishes of Burundi's Prime Minister and tribal extremists. As a result, relief agencies are the target of hostility, writes Sam Kiley in Bujumbura

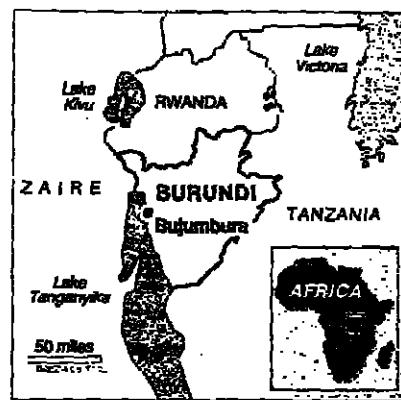
hijacked and diverted from Rwandan refugees to Tutsis. Death threats are an almost daily burden for Gemmo Lodesani, the WFP director.

Since up to 100,000 Burundi, many of them Tutsis, were slaughtered in ethnic clashes which followed the murder of Burundi's first democratically elected President, a Hutu, in October 1993, many rural Tutsis have lived in displaced camps fearing to return to their farms.

There remain some in certain areas where going home is too risky, and we know where they are. But the vast majority are simply living off free

handouts and being brainwashed by tribal extremists into a state of paranoia, or into joining the Tutsi militia," Mr Lodesani said yesterday.

According to a report by the United States Agency for International Development, titled *The Burundi Surrender*, the manipulation of relief operations through threats on both humanitarian workers and Tutsis has enabled extremist politicians to foment tribal hatreds and ignore the business of government. The humanitarian community has been used as an involuntary wedge between Burundi's population, which is 85 per cent Hutu and



15 per cent Tutsi. "While politicians discuss their future and jockey for political advantage, potentially explosive issues (such as the reintegration or resettlement of the internally displaced Tutsis) remain unaddressed by the central Government," the report said. Ex-

tremist Hutus have been unable to gain a foothold in the Government since Leonard Nyanzoga, the former Interior Minister, fled to exile in Zaire last year. His Force for the Defence of Democracy and its armed wing, the *Intagohokas* (those who never sleep) have mounted a number of attacks in some areas and have received arms from Rwanda's Hutu diaspora in Tanzania and Zaire.

One Western ambassador said: "The Tutsi extremists insist on driving the two ethnic groups further apart and blocking any chance of a reconciliation. Yet they should realise that they cannot survive like this. They are outnumbered, and sooner or later they will be outgunned." "They have been corrupted by so many years of unchallenged power. [Burundi] was under a Tutsi military dictatorship between independence in 1963 and the 1993 elections. They simply cannot see any way of making money other than grabbing the reins of government. But the

Hutus have now had a taste of power. They know they outnumber the others, they have access to arms, and they are getting nastier by the day."

Donors are unlikely to continue funding the relief effort in Burundi until they see efforts at reconciliation working at government level — in particular, because only two provinces in Burundi are short of food, and the country exports bumper harvests as well as coffee and tea exports.

Another Western diplomat noted: "The time is fast approaching when we will simply give up on this country." □ Massacre uncovered: Burundi troops and Tutsi gunmen massacred an estimated 400 Hutus, mainly women and children, in northeast Burundi last week, diplomats and aid workers said yesterday. One envoy said: "There is no question, this is genocide." Robert Krueger, the US Ambassador, said the vast majority of those killed, in the Gasorwe area, were women and children. (Reuters)

## Bahrain's Emir in peace talks after riots and sabotage

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time since unrest began to rock the Gulf state of Bahrain last December, the ruling Emir has held high-level talks in an attempt to restore calm before an international economic conference, to be held next week, at which Baroness Thatcher is due to be the keynote speaker.

Opposition and official sources said yesterday that the talks had taken place between the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa, and prominent Bahrainis, but gave different accounts.

The violence was sparked by the arrest of a leading Shia Muslim cleric after a petition was circulated to reinstate the parliament closed by the Emir 20 years ago. The authorities say that protest is being orchestrated from Iran in order to destabilise the nation.

According to the official GNA news agency, the leaders met the Emir on Sunday to express their "concern at the violence and sabotage against public and private property". The agency said they had promised to make every effort to restore calm, under the Emir's "wise leadership".

In a contrasting account, however, members of the exiled Bahrain Freedom Movement, one of two main opposition groups, said that "about 20 leading Shia Muslims were summoned by the Emir to ask them to end the unrest". The opposition said that disturbances have left at least 12 people dead in the past four months, although the Government has admitted only four deaths, including those of three policemen.

The situation deteriorated at

the weekend with a call from the main exiled opposition group, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, for a mass campaign of civil disobedience, and with the arrest of unidentified suspects accused of sabotage and the killing of a policeman and a Pakistani shop assistant.

Since street disturbances flared last December after the arrest of petitioners demanding the reinstatement of parliament — set up after independence from Britain in 1971 but closed by the al-Khalifas in 1975 — human rights groups have accused the authorities of using excessive force.

Once known as "the pearl of the Gulf", Bahrain — with its tolerant attitude towards alcohol and nightlife, its luxury hotels and the alleged links between leading Bahrainis and many of the foreign air stewards who are based there — has long been a target

for condemnation by Islamic purists.

Last week Amnesty International issued a report saying that the political situation had become critical with at least seven civilians killed and dozens of others wounded since last December. The Government says that the death toll is lower and that there have been about 300 arrests, as opposed to the more than 3,000 claimed by the opposition.

Bahrain's stability is of vital importance to the West. Since 1986, the group of islands that forms the emirate has been linked to Saudi Arabia by a causeway. The capital, Manama, provides vital services to the United States Navy and the RAF, although reporting that an attempt not to inflame extreme Islamic opinion further.

As the root of Bahrain's troubles, which are causing increasing concern in the West, is the fact that a 65 per cent Shia Muslim majority is ruled by a Sunni Muslim minority, Shia discontent has been exacerbated by high unemployment and a rule keeping Shias out of the armed forces and sensitive administration posts.

In a recent letter to *The Times*, Karim Ebrahim al-Shakir, the Bahraini Ambassador to London, said that the unrest was being provoked and supported by foreign-based terrorists bent on destabilising the Gulf region. □ Algeria: Algerian airborne troops destroyed a convoy of armed Islamic fundamentalists coming from Sudan last week, the newspaper *Liberté* reported yesterday. (AFP)



Al-Shakir, 'terrorists' said to be behind unrest

## Gaza blast sparks call for revenge

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THOUSANDS of Islamic militants marched in the Gaza Strip yesterday, blaming Israel and the Palestinian Authority for the explosion at a secret bomb factory on Sunday and vowing to take swift revenge.

Although both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation denied responsibility for the blast, in which six Palestinians are now known to have died and 30 others were wounded, Israeli security forces were placed on maximum alert by Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, in anticipation of renewed suicide attacks.

Palestinian police claimed that the explosion, which ripped through a block of flats in Gaza City, was caused when members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, were working together to assemble a bomb. Four Hamas activists were among those killed in the incident.

As tension mounted in Gaza yesterday, more than 7,000 Islamic extremists marched behind symbolic wooden stretchers after the dead had been buried by Palestinian police. Some activists shouted "Revenge, revenge" and others chanted: "We want to hear the Jews crying."

## Tokyo cult blames Buddhist 'spies'

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

THE religious cult under investigation for the poison gas attack on Tokyo's subway system, yesterday accused one of Japan's largest and most influential Buddhist sects of involvement in the incident and other illegal acts.

The charges, made by Rumihiro Joju, the chief spokesman for Aum Shinrikyo, has provoked an unprecedented "clash of the cults" in Japan, where more than 85,000 religious organisations have coexisted in relative peace for decades.

Mr Joju said that Soka Gakkai had sent about 86 "infiltrators" into the sect to "spy" on its members, and that one of the "spies" had carried out kidnappings and other acts that had been blamed on the Aum cult.

Both groups are categorised as "new religions". Aum says it has about 10,000 members in Japan — a country of 120

million people — and about 40,000 members overseas. Soka Gakkai, which was founded in the 1930s, claims a membership of more than 13 million in Japan and hundreds of thousands abroad.

The group, headed by Daisuke Ikeda, the honorary chairman, is one of Japan's richest and best established Buddhist sects. It wields considerable political power through its sponsorship of Komeito, a political party that recently divided into two separate organisations.

Soka Gakkai last night dismissed Mr Joju's remarks. "Aum Shinrikyo originally blamed the American military, and then attributed the incidents [terrorist acts and kidnapping of former sect members and their relatives] to the Japanese national authorities. Their attempt now to implicate the Soka Gakkai is inconsistent and ludicrous."

## Bombay rents soar above Manhattan's

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

BOMBAY is among the world's most expensive cities. Land prices have risen between 60 and 100 per cent in the past two years and rents make Manhattan look cheap.

Solicitors, airline pilots and headmasters are among the residents of Dharavi, the largest slum in Asia, which is home to destitute middle-class unable to pay the city's exorbitant rents.

It is difficult to find a decent flat in central Bombay at any price. A small room in

the right location can fetch £2,000 a month in a country where the per capita monthly income is around £18. In Malabar Hill and Cumballa Hill, three-bedroom flats fetch £8,000 a month. Commercial rents are in most cases higher than in Tokyo and Hong Kong.

The main problem is housing laws that make it impossible for landlords to evict tenants. Most rents in central Bombay have been frozen at wartime prices.



Romanian soldiers carry away debris yesterday from the Tarom Airbus that crashed on the outskirts of Bucharest with the loss of 60 lives

Brussels Belgian police checked an anonymous note sent to an international news organisation yesterday saying that "the hand of Allah" brought down a Romanian plane last Friday.

A spokesman for the Brussels public prosecutor's office confirmed that police were examining the handwritten note, delivered to an office in Brussels early in the day. It

## Jet 'struck by hand of Allah'

said: "The hand of Allah has hit the non-believers in the sky. Death to the infidels. Islam will conquer."

The Brussels-bound Romanian Tarom Airbus A310 crashed just after take-off from Bucharest's Otopeni airport, killing all 60 passengers

and staff, including 32 Belgians. The same flight to Brussels was the subject of a bomb threat on March 15. Romanian air accident investigators say they are taking seriously a possibility that the crash could have been caused by a bomb. One witness

reported seeing an explosion on the aircraft.

Vladimir Belis, the director of the Bucharest mortuary, said yesterday: "My personal belief is that the victims have died due to an explosion in the air." He based this view on his experience, charring on

the bodies, and what he had read. A Tarom BAC 1-11 aircraft bound for Paris was forced to divert to the Romanian city of Timisoara yesterday after its pilot was told a bomb was on board.

Last month the Algerian Armed Islamic Group threatened reprisals after Belgian police broke up an Islamic fundamentalist network and arrested nine people. (Reuters)

## Maid 'was tortured to confess'

Manila: The daughter of a Filipino maid hanged in Singapore for a double murder said yesterday her mother claimed she was tortured and drugged by police into admitting the crime.

Pior Contemplation, convicted of killing another maid and a four-year-old boy, was hanged on March 17 causing a political rift between Singapore and the Philippines. Her daughter, Russell, told a presidential commission investigating the case that her mother repeatedly denied the killings. (AP)

## Thai rail deaths

Prachuap Khiri Khan: Fifteen people were killed and about 100 injured when a Thai passenger train hit a lorry at an unmarked crossing and left the rails about 140 miles south of Bangkok. (Reuters)

## Tourists traced

Rome: Nine Italian tourists kidnapped on the border of Eritrea and Ethiopia are in good health and being held in Ethiopia's Lake Assale region, an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. (AFP)

## Volcano erupts

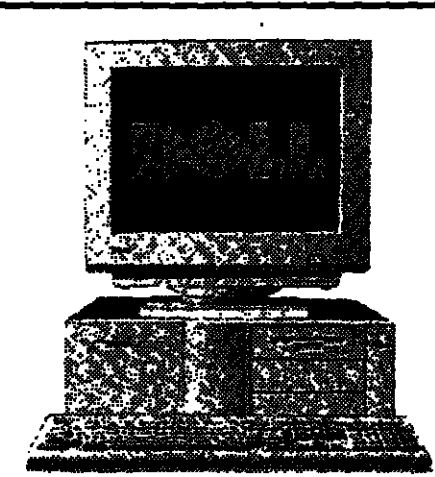
Lisbon: A volcano erupted in Pogo, one of the Cape Verde islands off West Africa. About 1,000 residents in the area left their homes and there were no reports of casualties or damage. (Reuters)

## Concern for Kim

Seoul: A team of American neurologists has visited North Korea, rekindling rumours about the health of Kim Jong Il, 53, its reclusive leader. He has repeatedly refused to meet foreign visitors. (AFP)

## Kangaroos dying

Adelaide: About 10,000 kangaroos are believed to have died in New South Wales as a result of a disease that causes blindness. Many have been hit by cars, starved to death or jumped into rivers. (Reuters)



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# Of life, death and stuffed cats

Beryl Bainbridge's front door shelters behind a cloak of Virginia creeper. There is no bell. No number. Only a heavy Victorian knocker on which you pound sepulchrally like the Commendatore from *Don Giovanni*. After a pause, a slight woman, wrecked but sensual, with shoulder-length chestnut-brown hair, appears. She wears black stockings and a knee-length wrap-around dress gathered at the waist with a belt. She has deep pink lipstick, black eyeliner and the cheekbones of a Slav warrior. "You've got hair," she observes in surprise. "You come over bald on the phone."

She conducts me into an intensely gloomy Victorian hallway past rows of black and white pictures of her pale-faced, doe-eyed children standing by crumbling ivy-clad walls, more examples of *memento mori* than celebrations of new life. The hall is mainly taken up by a gigantic stuffed buffalo, while the leg of a shop dummy is propped up some slats in the ceiling. "That's where my mother-in-law tried to shoot me," explains Beryl absently, pouring a large whisky.

Perhaps it was her cold which made her seem depressed or was her mood more existential in its gloom? Perhaps it was the sudden death last year of her publisher Colin Haycraft, which anaesthetised her with shock. "When Colin died I couldn't feel anything. I couldn't even cry. I wanted to, but nothing came. Sometimes I put on sad music and had a drink and thought of him, but all I felt was nothing, coldness."

Almost pathetically she gets out folders of little notes (some of them only little memoranda on the backs of envelopes) which Haycraft sent her over the years: poems in Greek and Latin, letters and, in another brown envelope, a mournful heap of obituaries and newspaper cuttings about his death.

To read Bainbridge's novels is to realise that what lies on the other side of childhood is ultimately horror. *An Awfully Big Adventure* is no exception. The title is a quote from Peter Pan, when, standing on a rock in the lagoon, he declares: "To die must be an awfully big adventure." It is just the sort of line that

Beryl Bainbridge tells Robert

Fewdwr Moss how *An Awfully Big Adventure* came to be filmed

would capture Bainbridge's imagination, fascinated as she is by the twin subjects of innocence and death.

One of her friends remembers that when one of her cats, Fudding, died, she decided she was going to stuff him herself. "Duckworth, her publishers, had actually published a book called *Taxidermy: A User's Guide*," he recalls. "Fortunately the body went missing." But in the course of our conversation the subject recurs. She tells me she wishes to be buried in her own garden. "Apparently it's quite legal as long as they put you in a wood shroud and they go down a certain number of feet."

The film based on her book is a brilliant and poignant study of the unavoidable loss of innocence when the young actress, Stella (played by Georgina Cates), becomes fatally embroiled with a dashing lead actor (Alan Rickman) and a young director (Hugh Grant) in a Liverpool rep company after the war. Directed by Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*), it is loosely based on Bainbridge's own experiences at the Liverpool Playhouse as a result of which she fell disastrously in love and married.

Beryl — like Stella in the book — got a job as assistant stage manager because her father knew the Lord Mayor and the Lord Mayor knew the theatre's manager, played in the film by Prunella Scales. "I'd always wanted to write a book with that line as the title," says Bainbridge. "And I've always written about the past. My past mainly."

*Awfully* came about one night when she found herself drinking alone after a heated discussion with a close friend, in the course of which

she had knocked over a pile of books. "I was putting the books back on the shelf and I fell over and knocked myself out on the edge of the table. When I came round I don't know what happened. I started to phone my mother who died 17 years ago. But instead of my mother I got the speaking clock. It started me thinking. To say more would be to spoil the grotesque twists of a brilliant Bainbridge plot."

The film was shot in Dublin as Liverpool was considered too refurbished and too changed to capture the right air of decay. "In Liverpool then there were children barefoot in winter, and soup kitchens up until 1949. People forget so easily. In those days we all stank, even the lower middle classes. If my mother got the bus, she always sat with her nose in a hanky."

Before I went to interview Beryl Bainbridge, her agent phoned. He said there were lots of good stories and wonderful coincidences about the film. For a start the girl playing Stella was an unknown who, like Beryl as a girl, had been working at the Liverpool Playhouse as an usher. It was quite a sweet story as it seemed to mirror that of both Stella in the film and, ergo, Beryl in real life.

A bit too sweet actually. "It's not true, at all," remarks Beryl tartly. "It's a hoax she made up to get the part. At the end of shooting she broke down and confessed she'd been to the Guildhall. I think she was brought up in Sussex. She'd never set foot in Liverpool in her life."

The interview ends when the cleaner phones for Beryl's cab. Cosmos Cars Camden. "They're all Chinese and none of them speaks English," wails Beryl, preparing herself — with another scotch — to deliver a lecture to some English faculty in the depths of south London. "God, I'm dreading this. She mutters as I escort her to the car. The last I see of her is as the vehicle draws away, her head pops out of a rear window and she points to her old tomato dragging himself along the street. "Oh look, it's Gerald Duckworth!" she cries. "Just look at him! Can't you see how buggered he's been?"

● *An Awfully Big Adventure* is released on Thursday



Bainbridge, fascinated by the twin subjects of innocence and death

## So sorry you weren't invited

Only the wallflowers got excited about my dance with Rushdie

AS UNSEEMLY as it might be for a journalist to admit this, I am beginning to feel rather Stephen Fryish about the press. Must it be so nasty?

Now, while I don't want to slip too far into Michael Winner mode — the columnist as self-publicist is not an attractive spectacle — I cannot entirely choke my response to the press coverage given to my dancing with Salman Rushdie at the launch party for Martin Amis's new novel last week.

This is the story: there is a party, people dance at it. Scoop of the year, surely. The cameras were invited by the publishing company, so one can hardly blame the photographers, and actually I don't. This isn't about intrusiveness: having your photograph taken while dancing is just not something to get excited about or feel ashamed of. I had a great time: nothing to conceal about that. What concerns me rather is what the photographs were used to say later, and the words that accompanied them were, with some exceptions, notably composed by those who hadn't been invited. About which more later.

What the photographers — and their editors — really wanted were pictures of Martin Amis and his new girlfriend. Had they got those, the apparently pressing story of "Salman Rushdie dances at party" would have been kept from you. But that's all they

got, so they went with it. But that's not a story so a spin has to be put on it. These days that means finding something mean to say. And so the pictures are captioned with sarcastic remarks about how much "we" are all paying for Special Branch to look on while Mr Rushdie has a good time at a party, along with the usual snide implications.

Why is there so much hatred towards Salman Rushdie? In anyone's scheme of things, going out to a party and getting on down is not a particularly heinous activity. What do people want? For him to stay locked up out of sight? Sometimes I fear that what they want is even worse than that. It is insupportable that this man who is the victim of terrorism is treated as if he were the culprit of some vile, crime himself. Why should he have to atone for the sins of his persecutors?

Of course not all the attacks were due to covert racism or copy-hungry opportunism. Some were fired simply by resentment. Those who were, as the parlance has it, NFI (Not F\*\*\*\*\* Invited, should you need a translation) went in for the kill. I am puzzled that people who weren't at the party saw nothing strange about presuming to give an account of what they didn't witness. No: it's disingenuous to describe myself as puzzled, for surely it's the lack of invitation that explains it all.



NIGELLA LAWSON

## Go on, really shock me

EVEN we disco queens must take a rest sometimes: so Sunday night saw me enjoying the skills of others at the Gala of the Dance Umbrella in Woking. After pieces by the Royal Ballet, the Scottish Ballet and Mark Morris *inter alia*, the finale, for reasons I can't really fathom, was a rendition of *Time Warp* by

members of *The Rocky Horror Show*. The stage was filled with men in black stockings and high heels, while women in patterned silk and soft perms clapped placidly along with the beat. There's something rather depressing about something that was designed to shock reshaped as material for a suburban singalong.

## The making of a Death Row crusader



Unlikely zealot: Clive Stafford Smith, left, once head boy at Radley, with a prisoner

Clive Stafford Smith has defended, by his own estimate, more than 200 inmates of America's Death Row, and has failed to win a reprieve on just three occasions. He watched while two of those died, and remains traumatised by the experience.

This week the British lawyer faces what may be his hardest task in more than a dozen years of campaigning against America's death penalty: attempting to save the life of his fellow countryman, the convicted murderer Nicholas Ingram, who is due to die in Georgia's electric chair on Thursday. Mr Stafford Smith has already filed appeals on Ingram's behalf in virtually every court in the land, from the state level to the Supreme Court.

A civil rights suit issued against the Georgia State Execution, claiming that electrocution amounts to "cruel and unusual punishment", was due to be heard in a Georgia court yesterday. If that fails, as Mr Stafford Smith confidently predicts, he has one final chance to obtain clemency: when the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles hears Ingram's case the day before his scheduled execution.

A former head boy at Radley College, Mr Stafford Smith appears an unlikely zealot, but

Ben Macintyre on the British lawyer defending Nicholas Ingram

as he sat in a New York hotel last week, there was no mistaking the righteous fire of a true believer who discovered his vocation at 16 while writing a school essay on the death penalty. "I can't think of anything that any government does to any individual where the individual is more defenceless and the government more overbearing and the person needs more help," he says.

The guilt or innocence of his clients has never troubled the 35-year-old lawyer, who sees his job as nothing less than a crusade against a barbaric and outdated institution.

The case of Nicholas Ingram, who was convicted of killing a middle-aged Georgia man in 1983, holds particular pliancy for Mr Stafford Smith, not least because the two men were born in the same Cambridge hospital just four years apart.

Issuing writs on an almost daily basis, Mr Stafford Smith is leaving no legal stone unturned in his determination to

prevent the convicted murderer and — after a decade of prison visits — his friend from being "fried", a word Mr Stafford Smith uses often. "If the parolers board turns us down I'm going to sue them too," he notes. "Make that the 25th person I'm going to sue."

In New York to receive a public service award from Columbia University, Mr Stafford Smith was modest about a record which has made him one of the most prominent defenders in the American South and, in a part of the country where the death penalty is regarded with almost religious veneration, one of the most reviled.

"My office is viewed as a bunch of pinko communists," Mr Stafford Smith says proudly of his Louisiana Crisis Assistance Centre in New Orleans, from which he coordinates his campaigns. After toying with journalism as a method of making his views heard, Mr Stafford Smith trained in US law at the University of North Carolina and later at Columbia University. Despite a workload that would make most American lawyers blanch, he is far from wealthy and his law office is financed entirely by charitable donations. With characteristic tenacity, Mr Stafford Smith is now suing several southern states for his legal fees.

"What do these people think when some pompous Brit comes and tells them how to straighten up their act?" he laughs. The answer to that question might best be gauged by radio stations in Georgia which have begun holding phone-ins in response to mounting British interest in the Ingram case. The radio host Sean Hannity characterised the public reaction in three words: "Pull the switch." If that happens, Clive Stafford Smith will be there, thundering protest until the moment the current flows.

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# Exorcising the spectre of Hitler

Roger Boyes on why the Russians feared the Führer's bones

AS NAZI Germany crumbled around him, Joseph Goebbels ransacked his imagination and made an uncanny prediction for 1995. "If the Führer dies an honourable death in Berlin and if Europe falls to the Bolsheviks — then in five decades at the latest the Führer will have become a legendary personality and national socialism will have the quality of a myth, blessed by that last great sacrifice."

The mystery of Adolf Hitler's death — revealed in some detail yesterday by *Der Spiegel* — has been the object of some fascination for half a century. The damp, cramped bunker, the flames eating up Berlin, the strange crazed intimacy of Hitler, Eva Braun, the Goebbels family, the crackling communication with the Reich, the physical deterioration of the Nazi leader: all this makes up a drama at once sordid and compelling. The usual comparison is with Wagner's *Twilight of the Gods*, but there was little that was noble or entrancing about those final days underground. Rather, it was bad opera. Puccini perhaps — with a libretto by Von Clausewitz perfectly logical commands issued out of a chaotic household into an unreciprocated darkness as the rumour of war closed in.

'Stalin believed in the force of demonic spirits'

There was black force too — shortly before the end, the Auschwitz doctor Karl Gebhardt appeared in Hitler's bunker asking whether he could be appointed president of the German Red Cross. If the Red Cross has a branch in hell, Gebhardt is surely president; he was hanged at Nuremberg.

Goebbels's prognosis was a relatively shrewd one. Certainly it influenced Stalin, who needed much persuasion that Hitler was really dead. Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper's findings presented in November 1945 were widely accepted in the West. His thorough detective work and cross-examination of witnesses seemed to squash the many rumours that Hitler had escaped from the bunker. Stalin wanted more — he had, after all, the best witnesses, and interrogated them thoroughly. Almost a dozen of these captives were sent back to the site of the bunker in 1946 for a filmed midnight re-enactment of the last days of Hitler. When Stalin was convinced, his chief concern was that the whereabouts of the body should remain a secret. Like all good Georgians he believed in the force of demonic spirits. Hitler was so thoroughly evil that even his bones had to be hidden for ever.

*Der Spiegel's* account, based on recently discovered communications between the KGB chief Yuri Andropov and the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, in 1970, is entirely plausible and has been supported by many interviews with direct participants. In this account, the remains of Hitler, his mistress Eva Braun and the Goebbels family (including their six poisoned children) were burned into five ammunition boxes, driven to Magdeburg and buried in a

Soviet military camp. When in March 1970 it seemed that the Soviet base might be handed over to the East Germans, Andropov asked for permission to transfer the bodies to a nearby tank training ground for cremation. Brezhnev approved.

At dead of night, exactly 25 years ago today, five KGB officers dug up the improvised coffins and carried out the order. The historical background of this night-time exhumation was significant: Willy Brandt, the West German Chancellor, had just been greeted by cheering East Germans in Erfurt. Germany was making Russia nervous. What demons had been unbuttoned by Ostpolitik?

Russia is still ruled by men both anxious about, and respectful of, Germany. Reporting of German affairs in the Russian press is still stamped by memories of the war, by the fear of resurgent nationalism, by the conviction that Germany is the motive force behind NATO's expansion eastwards. There is no more uncertain relationship in world politics than that of the "good friends" Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl. Hitler's bones still matter in a country which has mummified Lenin.

The Russians have consistently underestimated Germany's ability to develop a proper democratic culture. But they were probably right to take Goebbels's prediction at face value — a grave or a tomb to Hitler would be dangerous indeed. Even the hard-nosed Westerner has an uneasy feeling in the concrete tunnels under Hitler's holiday home at Berchtesgaden.

GOEBBELS was very eager to arrange the proper kind of death for his master. It had to be a death that would be presented in November 1945. Alive, Hitler in those final days was a stooped, stubbled, grey, barely sane 55-year-old, his tunic flecked with grease. Dead, Hitler could be the beacon for a reborn Germany. The order went out to set up werewolf units of young Germans to form the nucleus of a new nationalist movement. For them, and others, a lasting heroic figure had to emerge from the rubble. Goebbels read aloud chunks of Thomas Carlyle's biography of Frederick II of Prussia. The Russian had to believe that Hitler died in his bunker, bedroom. He decided that unless the Seven Years War shifted in his favour by February 1762, he would kill himself with poison. Fortunately, the Russian Tsarist died on January 5. Her son was an admirer of Frederick.

Hitler cried when he heard this. He wanted so much to be a latter-day Frederick. For him, though, there was to be no last-minute salvation. The Russians, in their own conspiratorial way, did the right thing by this pathetic tyrant: his ashes, no doubt merged with the dark heavy clouds of industrial smoke that slowly poisoned the East German state.



## Beggar thy neighbour

The courts are full of people who want the people next door to go to hell

Who was that nuisance who said *De minimis non curat lex*? A likely story! Well, whoever he was, he must have been not quite off his rocker, or at least determined to bring down our entire legal system. The truth is that the lex curat like billy from morning till night, and there isn't a square inch left to put down a minimus or two. And if you don't believe me, go and ask District Judge John Turner, who has just presided over a case which lasted 11 days, on every day of which His Honour must have come close to asking the usher to pass him a large bowl of prussic acid and a ladle.

I have been at this business — writing columns for *The Times* — for 23 years, and I am dreadfully certain that in every one of those years there has been at least one month (some years a dozen) in which I could, if I was mad enough to do it, make at least half my columns out of court cases based on disputes between neighbours. I have carefully catalogued 167 cases of claims that Mr Higgenbottom's trees are encroaching on Mrs Bottombitch's hedges, 244 instances of Mr Wallop's parking space being invaded, 1,031 demands from the family Smith-Smythe to end the stench coming from their chickens, and 18,909 violent retaliations in the cases of untrained dogs. And yet they come. This time it is the Swainstons v the Foxes, and there is no half-time. What there is, of course, is invariably a draw; these catastrophes always end up with both sides wearing bloody noses and both sides, of course, almost ruined. (The legal fees for both sides came to £50,000, Natch.)

Let us now get down to the Swainstons and the Foxes, and what they got up to. In case I might get entangled in the details of who is who (why is it, I could never hope to know), I shall recite the catalogue of horror without apportioning names, and I shall call all the participants by the name of Hate One and Hate Two.

Very well. Hostilities between Mr Hate One erupted when the Hate Twos moved in nearly three years ago. Within hours, Mr Hate One was complaining about rubbish being piled in the driveway.

The bitterness escalated as offensive graffiti appeared outside the Hate Twos' home. At one stage the police were being called up to five times a day.

The court was told that Mr Hate

One had kept a diary as the vendetta between the neighbours gathered pace. By the time it came to court there were almost 1,000 entries. Most related to noise from Mr Hate Two's dog, rabid and motorbike. Among the catalogue of incidents was one in which Mr Hate One siphoned the water from Mr Hate Two's water butt. Once, seven policemen were needed to restrain Mr Hate One. Next Mr Hate Two bought a caravan and parked it in his drive, blocking Mr Hate One's view.

A twist was added to the court proceedings when Mr Hate Two's son — they said that they had moved to North Devon to get away from him. At the end of the case, the judge ordered that Mr Hate Two should only play his radio with his garage door closed, should not touch a fence between the two properties and must not let his down-pipe overflow into his neighbours' garden. The judge was also critical of the amount of time the case had taken and said there should be a way to nip in the bud such disputes. He added that the case was the "most wretched and miserable neighbours' dispute to come before me".

That, I assure you, is only a smattering of the horrors of this case. I have left the worst bits out, because I am not (though it may seem to you otherwise) simply intending to make your flesh creep. Indeed I am not even pointing a finger, or talking about vendettas and hatreds and sworn oaths. I am talking about human beings, and how extraordinary they are, or can be.

We all start with a variety of feelings, passions, instincts; these are not to be confused with intelligence, even genius. The creature called a human being has a substantial number of possibilities as soon as it understands what existence means, and it can use it, or abuse it, as it chooses.

Somewhere, there must be a gene that deals with place, indeed, there certainly is, and it is surely the oldest

and most intractable. One of the most familiar cartoons — it is probably the runner-up to the desert-island one — is the picture of the cave-man with his club. But there can be no cave-man without a cave. That fascinating book, *The Territorial Imperative*, was a huge success in the United States, and another in Britain. And that was not by chance, because the book sang the praises of place, of home, of roots, of familiar signs; why, was not one of the most familiar statements ever made "Here I stand, I can do no other"? And on a less awesome plane, it only takes half a dozen people coming together to have at least one of them mention his home.

We can spread the idea wider still: it is not another joke for the cartoonist, again, blesses its existence) that very many homes — not only the retired majors — are christened Dunrobin. Indeed, the very idea of giving a house a name might be thought odd, yet no one — no one in this country, at least — thinks that it is strange.

But James Elroy Flecker did not think it strange at all:

Half to forget the wandering and the pain,  
Half to remember days that have gone by,  
And dream and dream that I am home again!

And if you think that is too highbrow there is always

Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

Many, many years ago, I was invited by an American newspaper to join it the invitation came with a substantial stipend, a five-year contract and an apartment. I was greatly tempted, but I knew in my heart I would say no, and I did. (As it happens, it would have been impossible anyway, because I couldn't drive a car — I just can't — and the picture

on the table when I, somewhat tentatively, said that I had never sat behind the wheel of a car — in America! — will remain with me all my life.)

There must be countless people who, coming back from, say, a greatly enjoyed holiday, nevertheless find themselves on the edge of tears when they see their home, and rush into it and touch the furniture. But that is why I told you, some paragraphs ago, that the worst quarrels, short of murder (and quite frequently not short of murder), are those which concern homes, and that is why sane and level human beings are willing to spend the last penny they have, and borrow more that they haven't, to make sure that no enemy will touch their redoubt. (It is obvious for castles to have been invented; but it was the genius who invented the most who is blessed for evermore.)

There is an American saying that goes "Stout fences make good neighbours", and "one would deny its truth". I have to admit that although I have lived in the same house for more than 30 years, I do not know who are the people who live in the house adjacent on my left, and I would not know those on my right as well, were it not for the fact that it is a doctor's, and the going and coming makes it obvious.

And thus I come back to where I started, with the judge still growling, as well he may.

How easy it looks to say "it doesn't matter" when it is other people who are involved; how absurd it is to dig in when it is not your spouse. Look at these words, and don't tell me that I exaggerate: they refer to Mr Hate One. He and his family "put their life savings into bringing the case to court and will have to find the remaining quarter of their legal bills themselves... This has been two and a half years of absolute misery and we just want to get on with having a quiet life... fingers crossed, that is what we can now have..."

As for Mr Hate Two, well, "... I don't know how we will pay the costs but we will not be moving away from the area, even if we have to go into a council house... we are shocked at all that has happened and at how I have been painted as some kind of madman..."

And for an enno? How about "Two wrongs don't make a right, but two hates can go on hating till the end of time?"

## No critic's turn unstoned

Benedict Nightingale defends his craft

Who said that asking a playwright how he felt about critics was like asking a lamp-post how it felt about dogs? Christopher Hampton, I think, but it has become increasingly apparent of late that his view is widely shared, and not only by dramatists.

Tony Slattery used Sunday's Olivier Awards to attack critics as variously, "barking bloody mad", "a prat", "boss-eyed", and worse. And that tirade came a month after we were bad-mouthed for cruelty to another critic. Reportedly, it was a review of *Cell Mates* that called Stephen Fry "the all-time facile, so diametrically English and perplexingly inexpressive" which provoked his hurried exit from the play and the country.

We dish it out, we should take it. Indeed, it would probably do everyone good if there was more criticism of the critics, though it might help if the likes of Slattery were clearer about their objections. As any club reviewer knows, there are more complete ways of analysing someone's faults than calling him names. Still, I don't think we critics should abuse ourselves for fear of offending Slattery. Nor should we start lying about our feelings — for this is what is implicitly demanded — on the off-chance that they may send performers to the Low Countries in berets and dark glasses. If we have anything to apologise about, it is that we are too generous and too much in love with the theatre. If we shortchange anyone, it is not playwrights or comedians, but those to whom we are primarily responsible: the public.

That is not to deny that ours is a fallible profession. Clement Scott called Ibsen's *Ghosts* "wretched, loathsome, deplorable history" which no decent man should let his wife see. But Archer and Shaw, both critics, ensured a more favourable view prevailed. Harold Pinter's *Birthday Party* was dismissed by almost everybody. So was Edward Bond's *Saved*, mainly because of a scene in which hoodlums stoned a baby. But Harold Hobson and Penelope Giliatt, also critics, rescued each reputation.

Individual critics have been narrow and idle. James Agate often nodded "off" during performances, unapologetically telling a dramatist who had craved an opinion on his play, "Young man, sleep in an opinion." Yet he did, more than anyone, to win Chekhov acceptance in Britain. And reviewers haven't always fought the temptation to be smart at others' expense. "Katharine Hepburn ran the whole gamut of emotion from A to B," I have known everything but the knees of the chorus girls, and nature has anticipated me there."

But such casual savagery, more common in America than England, has all but disappeared. Indeed, its last practitioner is probably John Simon of *New York* magazine, who has dismissed careers in offhand phrases ("a terrible actress") and recently caused uproar by suggesting that Audrey Hepburn looked too much like a Jew in a Nazi cartoon to be a convincing Leonie. Frank Rich, lately the *New York Times* drama critic, is an acute, responsible writer who became known as "the butcher of Broadway" only because of his paper's unique influence on the box office.

Even Slattery would run out of job insults if he lived in New York. There, one critic probably has more power over actors' lives than all 12 leading critics do here. When a man who disdained Shaw had the job, virtually no Shaw was played in New York. But anybody who reads the British critics' reviews in *Theatre Record* will be struck by the diversity of their tastes. Views on Fry in *Cell Mates*, for instance, ranged from "dud" to "magnificent", and on Slattery in *Newlyweds in Island* from "one-note" to "marvellously malevolent".

Proof that no critic's likes or hates should be regarded as holy writ? Certainly. But reviewers have other functions than to judge. They must describe, inform, analyse and interpret; work out the aims of dramatists and directors; and place performances in a continuing tradition. Most of us try to offer our readers some objective evidence before reaching what is, of course, a personal verdict.

And if I am to believe friends who (unlike most critics) aren't manic thespians, those verdicts often err on the kind side. How can impresarios invariably plaster their theatre facades with at least one "expert" or "brilliant"? If you had believed the majority of reviewers last year, Jonathan Harvey's *Beautiful Thing* and Terry Johnson's *Dead Funny* were modern masterpieces, instead of what they surely were: quite promising and quite amusing.

When a producer called him a pinhead, the critic George Jean Nathan refused to believe it, "because pinhead has two syllables." Maybe we should treat Slattery's use of "barking" with similar respect. Alternatively, we might bark louder and bite harder.

For myself, his attack has got me thinking — and thinking I should be a bit more of a four-letter word.

## What ho, Blair

FINAL PROOF of Tony Blair's departure from the world of trade unions, working men's clubs and socialism comes courtesy of the P.G. Wodehouse Society. He has just signed up as a member.

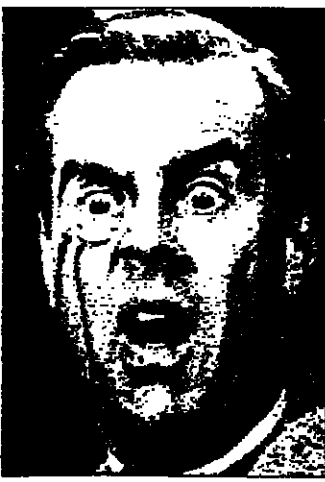
An article in *The Times* which exposed him as an admirer of Bertie Wooster, Gussie Fink-Nottle and their ilk seems to have done the trick. After it appeared in February, he was approached by the society to become an honorary member and readily accepted.

The decision is likely to win him votes, says Richard Morris, chairman of the society. "I will be trying to get the society to vote as a block for him at the election. I am sure he will have an advantage now he is a member." Blair's membership will be announced in the next issue of the society's newsletter. Later this year, he will be asked to unveil a plaque at Threepwood House in Hampshire, where Wodehouse lived for ten years.

Labour supporters never featured large in Wodehouse's upper-crust capers. But in one short story, Bertie Wooster's pal Bingo Little becomes an enthusiastic member of a loony-left group, Heralds of the Dawn. He joins in order to

pursue Charlotte Corday Rowbotham, daughter of the group's leader.

The news of Blair's membership comes as little surprise to Sir Tim Rice, that inveterate Wodehouse fan, who has just been appointed chairman of Richmond and Barnes Conservatives. "Tony Blair is a Conservative really, you see. I'm amazed he hasn't joined before. It'll be the MCC next."



Wooster image: Blair's vote

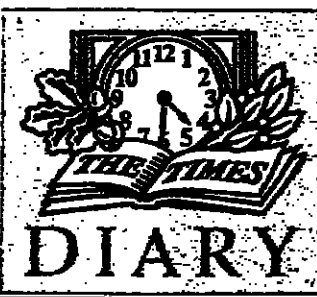
● Derek Lewis, the Director-General of the Prison Service, owned up to another escape on Friday. In a letter to an MP, he described how a donkey went missing from Thorn Cross young offender institution near Warrington, projected site of the first British "boot camp". Four members of staff spent about half an hour searching... but failed to find it. The animal, which inmates took after on behalf of a donkey sanctuary, was later recaptured by police and prison staff at a cost to public funds of more than £75.

### Kettle on

POLLY TOYNBEE has been dithering over her planned departure from the BBC, where she was social affairs editor, for *The Independent*. So much so that she cancelled the leaving party she was to have held at her south London home on Friday night.

Her concern seems to have been prompted because of uncertainty about the fate of Ian Hargreaves, the Editor of *The Independent*, who appointed her as an associate editor.

"She cancelled because she wasn't 100 per cent certain that she was leaving. She was concerned about the uncertainty at *The Independent*," says an erstwhile BBC



colleague. "Now she has decided she is leaving. She's told everyone she will have a leaving party after Easter." In the meantime, Toynbee is holidaying in Italy.

### Networking

NO SNUB was intended, they say, but President Clinton was conspicuously absent from Washington yesterday when John Major arrived in the capital. Instead of greeting the Prime Minister, he decided to stay home in Arkansas and watch a game of basketball.

It was a key match last night: the universities national championships' final between his favoured team, the Arkansas Razorbacks, and the University of California (UCLA). "He wanted to watch it back home with his friends," says a Washington source. "Which

means he'll be cutting it pretty fine to get to the White House for lunch with Major the next day."

### Party planner

JONATHAN Aitken, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, may be under pressure from the media over his alleged involvement in the arms-to-Iran saga but he is still in favour on the back benches. His house in London is in demand for functions. And the former Education Secretary, John Patten, has decided to commandeer Aitken's ballroom to launch *Things to Come*, his book on the future of the Tory Party.

According to close friends, Patten thought the grandeur of Aitken's house was just the setting for his definitive treatise. There is also the advantage that he can cram a few more guests into Aitken's house than into his own London residence. "You can only fit 70 people into mine at the most — and that's if you hold your stomach in," he told a friend. "It's far more suitable all round to have it in Jonathan's house."

### Stardust

THE GLACIAL gallery girls in London's West End are uncommonly excited. David Bowie is



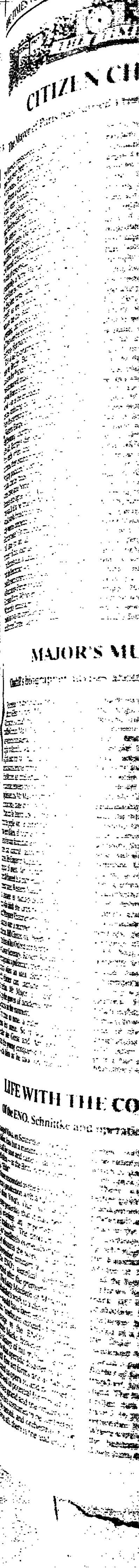
Bowie: self-portrait

mounting his first solo art exhibition at The Gallery in Cork Street later this month.

One of the more striking paintings in this mini-retrospective is a portrait of fellow pop star Iggy Pop from 1975. Iggy Pop's head is bright blue and the painting is described by one art fancier as "powerful and expressionist".

Bowie has gathered one or two self-portraits for his show, which covers 20 years of painting, drawing and print-making. "The portraits are only of his body, not his head," says his agent. "They are self-referential." Quite.

P.H.S







## CITIZEN CHIRAC

The Mayor of Paris has turned French politics on its head

The French presidential election campaign does not even begin, officially, until the end of this week. But in another sense, it is half over. From a standing start at the beginning of the year, Jacques Chirac has not only firmly established himself as the man to beat: he has defined the terms of the contest. He argues for a clean break with the Mitterrand years. He has thus deftly put the Socialist, Lionel Jospin, at a disadvantage, and forced Edouard Balladur to desert the politics of consensual prudence in which he is naturally at home. He has stolen a march on the Left by proclaiming Left and Right to be obsolete terms, and he has reinvented himself as the politician who, precisely because he has such long experience of governing, can most effectively bridge the gulf between the political establishment and the things that matter to ordinary people.

This is all fascinating to politicians, not least in Britain. But the more important question for France's neighbours is whether the outcome will make any real difference to the way France is run, the way it looks at the world — or to the character of the electoral debates unfolding in Italy, Belgium and Spain. It is tempting to assume that elections in Western Europe do not much matter to neighbouring countries. Whoever wins, after all, Europe's democracies no longer fight each other; and in most of these countries, their establishments are adept at bringing politicians' electoral promises of radical change "back to reality" once the voters have gone home. Many members of France's elite agree with Alain Minc that this would also be true of M Chirac, who would soon be forced to concede that "we can only become competitive by importing the German model". On this argument, the only vital issue for an ally is reliability in moments of crisis such as the Gulf War.

In France's case, it already appears clear that the Frenchman who presides over the next European summit, this June in Cannes, will chart a new French strategy towards the European Union. Whoever wins, President Mitterrand's enthusiasm for federalism, based as it was on confidence that France could control Europe's destiny, seems set to

be his least durable legacy. The tone of the election campaign is in this respect unmistakable: the future French President will argue for more assertive common European policies — but with national governments rather than common institutions in the driving seat. In foreign policy most Frenchmen are Gaullists now, although this does not imply the collapse of the Franco-German axis. It was, after all, de Gaulle who published the bans for the Franco-German marriage, and French politicians still believe that German power is best managed within the tight embrace of love.

But the new French emphasis on the inter-governmental character of European co-operation will have enormous bearing on Europe's future. The importance of a Chirac victory would be that he is the man most able to articulate it in ways that attract solid popular support. Both M Balladur and M Chirac are converts to a "flexible" Europe based on shifting, interest-based coalitions, and M Balladur has gone out of his way to insist that the Europe of the future "cannot be federal in nature". But M Balladur has yet to say how this can be squared with his policy of economic and therefore political union with Germany at the earliest possible date. A distancing from the European Commission and Parliament would be even harder to detect should Lionel Jospin defy the long odds against victory. He is a quintessential Clause Four Socialist, with all the faith in the EU's social charter and the mantra of "solidarity" which that implies.

A Chirac victory would not guarantee a meeting of minds across the Channel. When M Chirac inveighs against the powers of the European Commission, for example, there is more than a hint of hostility to attempts by Brussels to control French subsidies to uncompetitive industries. But France is never harder to deal with than when it is in one of its fits of national gloom, and M Chirac has the dynamism to tackle the country's most pressing domestic challenges. Public disaffection with politics is a Europe-wide phenomenon. If France discovers a new lease of life post-Mitterrand, it could affect the climate beyond its frontiers.

## MAJOR'S MUSE

Churchill's biographer advises another Prime Minister

The presence of the distinguished scholar Martin Gilbert on John Major's trip to Washington is a small but intriguing political development. Mr Gilbert, who is best known for his magisterial eight-volume biography of Churchill, was a guest on Mr Major's recent trip to Israel, during which he made a considerable impression upon the Prime Minister. An intellectual bond seems to have arisen between the two men. Why, it may be asked, has Mr Major turned to a fine historian at this stage in his fortunes?

Much can be learnt about the powerful from the people whose cerebral company they keep. Often, of course, they surround themselves with formidable intellects to add lustre and cultural authority to their regimes. The Emperor Augustus adored the company of poets, for instance, just as Joseph II flaunted his patronage of Mozart. In recent times, Western leaders have often had recourse to hand-picked academic gurus who think the unthinkable on their behalf. Margaret Thatcher enjoyed a flexible association with a number of Conservative academics. Bill Clinton has been influenced by the ideas of his Oxford contemporary and now Labour Secretary, Robert Reich. However pragmatic a politician, there are always occasions when an idea gleaned from a helpful thinker can capture the public imagination. Mr Major is said to be trawling the groves of academe for helpful suggestions at the moment.

From time to time, a ruler's guru also becomes his muse. So it was between Alexander the Great and Aristotle, who inspired the young conqueror to carry the *Iliad* with him as he took on the world.

Charlemagne's intellectual friendship with the Anglo-Saxon scholar Alcuin went far beyond mere patronage, as did Frederick II's stormy association with Voltaire. In such cases, brainpower can be an enthralling diversion from the cares of office. It can make sense of daunting responsibility. At the very least, it can make the mighty feel a little better about themselves.

A closer parallel to Mr Major's affinity with Mr Gilbert may be John F. Kennedy's relationship with Arthur Schlesinger, who was the force behind the young President's hypnotic oratory and — some alleged — the true author of his prose. Nor was it an accident that Schlesinger was an historian, who had already won a Pulitzer Prize in his twenties. After Kennedy's death, his adviser played a vital role in the mythologising of the Camelot years. Along with William Manchester, Schlesinger became one of the most prominent chroniclers of the presidency and an apostle for the assassinated Commander-in-Chief. As an historian, he perhaps performed a greater service for Kennedy after his death than during his life.

Mr Major is said to have a keen eye for posterity and a sense of his role in history which has sadly eluded most of his contemporaries. Mr Gilbert's presence on this trip will not restore the Government's electoral fortunes or repair the special relationship between Britain and America. It may, however, reassure Mr Major that his side of the story will be put to future generations in an even-handed way. And who better than Churchill's biographer to give a fair account of a Conservative Prime Minister's struggle against adversity?

## LIFE WITH THE COLISEUM

Of the ENO, Schnittke and operatic ups and downs

The deranged Vova, in Schnittke's opera *Life with an Idiot*, has but a meagre vocabulary. "Ekh!" is all he said and sang — disconcertingly, from opera it demands fine spectacle.

Critics have responded to the English National Opera's production with a fuller range of words than Vova's. Our own Rodney Milnes wrote yesterday that it had been "a depressing, evening, an important work heedlessly traduced". The production, he lamented, is "needlessly over-elaborate, and near-fatally obscures the work's dour content". Sabre-toothed criticism was directed also at the ENO's technical ineptitude. *Franziska's* virtuosity after the premiere of Shostakovich's *The Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* — to which Schnittke's work is a clever satirical successor — would have been entirely apt at the Coliseum: "confusion instead of music".

Our message to the ENO's general director Dennis Marks, however, is to seek solace in the history of his milieu: he must know by now that operatic disaster is as old as opera itself. Few art forms are as tangled and complicated as opera is, and no other is as richly endowed in potential for misadventure. The sets are grand and the singers still grander. There are costumes to be concocted, choruses to be tamed, and orchestras to be won over. Above all, there is the audience: it

comes well-dressed and packed with expectations; and unlike the theatre, to which it goes for meaning and revelation, from opera it demands fine spectacle.

There was something endearing (and rather gawky) in the announcement by the management on Saturday that "a technical rehearsal" was at the root of the 20-minute delay in the start. Rehearsal, naturally, was an ill-chosen word in the context; "hitch" or "glitch" might have been more reassuring to the audience. For whole books have been written on the hitches and glitches which stud the history of opera.

Horses have been known to leave their mark on stage: memorably so in one production of *Boris Godunov*, where the stoneman bemoaned the fate of Mother Russia by a mound of manure. In *Rigoletto*, the Duke of Mantua has on occasion swallowed his moustache in the midst of *Questa o quella*. And at the premiere of *The Barber of Seville*, Don Basilio fell through a trapdoor, just one of many accidents on the night. The hiccups at *Life with an Idiot* were neither new to opera nor the worst on record. In years to come, those present will remember the occasion much more fondly. Where were you, Daddy, when the bath with the baritone in it dangled only halfway down from the ceiling at the Coliseum?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## European travel without passports

From Mr Nigel H. C. Ward

Sir, Your leader, "Jeu sans frontières" (March 27), rightly points out how it has been made progressively easier to travel between many of the countries of mainland Europe, long before the Schengen agreement was implemented (report, March 25).

Many of us travelling between the UK and France by air often have merely to hold up our passports at immigration control; rarely are they handed to or even opened by the customs officer. However, you assert that Schengen should not be implemented in Great Britain for a variety of reasons, none of which I find convincing.

There is no difference to the restrictions and controls that need apply to flights arriving at, say, Frankfurt from the US or Asia than to those arriving at Heathrow. There is no complaint now from the main airports in the UK about carrying the cost of receiving passengers who wish to fly on to Birmingham or Edinburgh.

Anyone who has recently travelled either by ferry or Le Shuttle knows that the immigration procedures are minimal, unlikely to prevent any determined felon from entering our country.

Of course careful control procedures must be maintained for all travellers entering Europe from non-EU countries, but nothing will be achieved by restricting the movement of EU citizens in and out of Great Britain.

To do so would be to add to the growing list of differences between ourselves and our partners. Those who wish this to happen would be the first to complain about unnecessary delays when they next tried to start their summer holidays in France, Spain, Italy and elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL H. C. WARD  
40 rue des Vignerons,  
94000 Vincennes, Paris.  
March 31.

From Mr Brian Hutchinson

Sir, I am British and proud to be so, but I am also a European. I travel extensively in Europe, attempt to speak French and Spanish and I feel comfortable as a citizen of a member country of the EC. I was in Berlin during the momentous events leading up to the fall of the Berlin Wall. On unification night Elgar as well as

## Right to silence

From Mr Adrian Zuckerman

Sir, There is nothing wrong with expecting a suspect to answer questions, provided the interrogation is fair (letters, March 24, 31). But the Criminal Justice Act 1994 makes no provision for the fairness.

One of the most basic requirements of fairness is that before being required to defend oneself one should be given information about the case that one has to answer. Moreover, it is inherently unsafe to build a case on what a suspect says on being arrested, when he may be nervous, emotional and confused.

Solicitors would therefore be just-

ified to advise clients to reserve their reaction until they have calmed down and until the police have put their cards on the table.

No doubt, this may help some guilty persons escape punishment. But for as long as we believe that it is better to let ten guilty go free than convict one innocent, this is the price we have to pay for fair and just procedures.

It should also be remembered that, should we be unfortunate enough to be taken to a police station, each and every one of us would like to receive fair treatment.

Yours truly,  
A. ZUCKERMAN,  
University College, Oxford.  
March 24.

From Mr D. A. Heaton

Sir, I have travelled through the Channel ports to France regularly over the last 20 years. Yesterday, unprecedentedly, I waited in a queue at Calais for nearly half an hour to have my passport checked by French immigration control.

Was it coincidental that the Schengen agreement was implemented on the previous day? Are we already paying the price for an emerging second-class membership of the European Union?

Yours faithfully,  
D. A. HEATON  
(Headmaster)  
The Junior School,  
St Lawrence College,  
Ramsgate, Kent.  
March 28.

From Mr Michael Saxby

Sir, Travel within the group of seven Schengen nations no longer incurs checks at national frontiers. However, the police in each Schengen nation will be able to demand proof of identity anywhere within its own borders (report, March 23). It seems that the freedom to cross borders without a passport is to be bought at the cost of having to carry identity documents all the time.

I am more than happy to carry a passport when I cross to France, but I want to retain the freedom to walk to my village shop without carrying an identity card. We must not concede that freedom under pressure from Brussels.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SAXBY,  
Southlands, Stowmarket Road,  
Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.  
March 31.

## Planning maze

From Mr G. Roland Adamson

Sir, The latest planning fiasco reported in your columns ("Oast restorer takes local dispute to Strasbourg", March 21), involving the rebuilding of an oast house, clearly demonstrates that the planning system in this country is long overdue for public scrutiny.

The number of planning appeals reported in the press is totally insignificant compared to those which occur on a country-wide basis — almost 20,000 every year, using the Department of the Environment's own statistics.

Any planning code which permits the designation of a ruin, refurbished to a useful purpose, as "a dangerous planning precedent" and which states that it must be demolished "in the national interest" is clearly more deserving of authorship by Lewis Carroll than by sensible and caring administrators.

Yours faithfully,  
G. ROLAND ADAMSON,  
Ivy Cottage, Charing Hill,  
Charing, Ashford, Kent.  
March 23.

## Age plateau

From Dr T. C. Dann

Sir, Dr Simon Wessely is wrong in stating that the age of puberty, after having fallen steadily since the middle of the last century, has now reached a plateau ("Are we really getting more miserable?", March 21). He does not say whether he is discussing puberty in boys, girls or both, but presumably he means girls, since most of the data available concerns them.

Professor D. F. Roberts and I have shown in several articles, the latest in the *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 1993, volume 25, that the trend towards earlier menarche (puberty in girls) was reversed about twenty years ago and the age is now not steady, but in fact slowly increasing.

Yours sincerely,  
T. C. DANN,  
37 Balsall Street East,  
Balsall Common, West Midlands.  
March 21.

## Matter of taste

From Mr A. H. Lee

Sir, Mrs Genian Walls remarks (letter, March 31) that vegetarians rarely reciprocate courtesy to visitors by offering "a decent piece of meat".

I fear there is no such thing. Yours faithfully,  
A. H. LEE,  
3 Broad Street, Llandoverly, Dyfed.  
April 2.

## Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## Advantages of single-sex schools

From the Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College

Sir, Charles Bush, the Headmaster of Eastbourne College, writes (letter, March 30) of the college's decision to admit girls. However, the modern world, unfortunately, is not one "where both sexes compete equally". In fact, women still struggle for equal recognition of their talents and abilities.

In a girls' school all is provided for girls — laboratories, libraries and sports facilities. There is no question of some subjects being boys' subjects, nor is there any danger of them abandoning the computer room under male pressure.

Most girls will do better in an environment where they can take all the responsibilities and leadership roles and see female role models in senior positions. They need time and opportunity to build up their confidence before discovering that, as Nigella Lawson put it, "the male ego is a fragile thing and cannot cope with female competition" (March 28) and risk being put out of the race before they are even in it.

Yours faithfully,  
ENID CASTLE,  
Principal,  
The Cheltenham Ladies' College,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.  
April 2.

From Mr M. B. Fisher

Sir, In his justification of co-education, or his school's decision to opt for it, the Headmaster of Eastbourne College leaves unanswered two questions. Why do the league tables unambiguously show that the highest attainment is to be found at single-sex schools? And why did our predecessors, who created the schools which we inherit, segregate the sexes at adolescence?

It is not good enough to talk about co-education as a "trend" which is "gathering momentum" and which "mirrors" society. Education has suffered enough from this kind of lang-

## Judges' retirement age

From His Honour Judge Richard Holman

Sir, There is no sound reason to suppose that judges are any better than other people at deciding for themselves when to retire (report, March 29). There is always the danger of staying on too long, and in my view a compulsory retirement age and the lowering of that age for judges are both unobjectionable.

Indeed, although I am entitled to sit until I am 72, I am happy to indicate publicly to the Lord Chancellor that I envisage hanging up my wig and making way for a younger, fresher mind rather earlier than that.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD HOLMAN,  
Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts,  
Derby Square, Liverpool 2.  
March 29.

## Fishing dispute

From Mr Walter Cairns

Sir, Señor Torrents dels Prats is perfectly right (letter, March 30). We should not rely on sentiment when assessing the rights and wrongs of the current fishing dispute between the EU and Canada. The issues must be assessed solely and purely on their own merits, which concern conservation of fishing, regardless of the nationality of the perpetrator.

It was right for Iceland to defy international rules in 1972, and it is right for the Canadians to do the same now. More than once, international law has proved unequal to certain situations, and has ultimately sanctioned practices originally classified as illegal because they fully exposed the shortcomings in the applicable rules.

I am confident that a similar fate

awaits the courageous action taken by the Canadian authorities.

Yours sincerely,  
WALTER CAIRNS,  
Broomhurst Hall,  
836 Wilmslow Road, Manchester 20.  
March 30.

From Mr George Rose

Sir, Every expatriate Newfoundland like me will give at least two cheers for the British Government's support against sanctions by the European Union.

If the Canadian High Commission were to establish a fund to pay for a fisheries protection vessel, I promise to be the first in the queue.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE ROSE,  
15a Grove Road, Sutton, Surrey.  
March 29.

## Buchan plaque

From Mr Andrew Lowrie

Sir, Peter Hopkirk (letter, March 23) is quite right that John Buchan should have a London blue plaque, and the obvious house to mark is 76 Portland Place, the site of his former home from 1912 to 1919, particularly since Richard Hannay in *The Thirty-Nine Steps* lived "hard near Portland Place".

If English Heritage will not do something to mark the 35 years Buchan worked in London then perhaps the Buchan Society should organise its own plaque.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW LOWRIE  
(Literary agent),  
122 Bedford Court Mansions,  
Bedford Square, WC1.  
March 27.

## Bid for freedom

From Mrs D. F. Sweeting

Sir, The controls on our new electric overblanket are "master" and "slave". As I sleep on the slave side I wonder whether there should not be more acceptable terms for what, my husband assures me, are expressions in general use for this type of electrical control.

Yours faithfully (slavishly?),  
ELIZABETH SWEETING,  
Hill Farm, Little Rissington,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 3: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, this afternoon attended a Ceremony of Dedication for the Royal Irish Regiment and the Ulster Defence Regiment Memorials in Ballymena, Northern Ireland.

Captain Neil Blair, RN, Major Elizabeth Towell and Captain David Thompson were in attendance.

**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
April 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, this evening attended a meeting of the Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead at Garter House and later attended a Dinner in the Mary Tudor Tower, Windsor Castle.

Lady Dugdale has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
April 3: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Norfolk Churches Trust, this evening gave a Reception at Sandringham House.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
April 3: The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire) today received Major Nicholas Sharples and members of the Regiment's 100th London to Mexico Rally Team.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
April 3: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, this morning presented the St John Ambulance Sovereign's Award to Mrs John Macarney at Kensington Palace.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the International Health Exchange, will give a presentation at the annual meeting at the Royal College of Nursing at 5.15; and, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend a private appeal dinner at Buckingham Palace at 7.50.

## Meeting

Royal Overseas League  
Professor Ray Billington of the University of the West of England, Bristol, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

## Luncheon

Royal Club of London  
The Swedish Ambassador was the speaker at a luncheon of the Royal Club of London held yesterday at the London Marriott Hotel. Mr John Parker, president, was in the chair.

## Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for April was won with bond number 12RW 17408. The winner lives in Camden, north London, and has a bond holding of £2,000.

## Mrs Elizabeth Dacre

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Elizabeth Dacre, MBE, TD, JP, will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 1995, at 2.00pm at St Clement Danes, Strand, WC2.

## Captain C.H. Upham

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Captain Charles Hazell Upham, VC and Bar, will be held in St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, at 3pm on Friday, May 5, 1995. Anybody wishing to attend is invited to apply for tickets, enclosing a s.a.e., to The Social Secretary, The NZ High Commission, Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4TG.

## Sir John Soane's Museum

The Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum have appointed Miss Helen Dorey as Inspector and Deputy Curator from April 8, 1995.

Classical Association meeting  
Horace shines in modern critical light

BY PHILIP HOWARD

THESE snows are fled away from the beach at St Andrews, though they still gleam on the distant highlands. In his presidential address to the Classical Association of Scotland and England yesterday, Professor David West of Newcastle University shone fresh light on two of the best loved odes of Horace.

The poems, 1.4 *Soluitur acris hiems* and 4.7 *Diffugere nives*, dance around the end of winter and the brevity of mortality. ("Pale Death with foot impartial knocks at the poor man's cottage and at princes' palaces," observes the former.)

In May 1914, at the end of a lecture at Cambridge, A.E. Housman uncharacteristically announced that he was

going to discuss the latter as poetry rather than grammar. He then read his translation. Then he said hurriedly, like a man betraying a secret: "That I regard as the most beautiful poem in ancient literature," and he walked quickly out of the room. One of the undergraduates who watched him said: "I was afraid the old fellow was going to cry."

Professor West is a golden literary critic of Latin as well as a poet. These two poems are often said to be the most alike in the work of Horace. Professor West discovered great differences in the poet and the world in the poems between their composition. And he made a powerful defence of traditional scholarship, nowadays put down as minimalist.

For example, modern recep-



Housman: ended lecture on Horace close to tears

tion theory is concerned with what later ages have made of the texts. This is important to classical scholars only in so far as it helps them improve their historical understanding of the texts. Deconstructionists

examine what they bring to the text. This is a matter for their analysts or a 20th-century cultural historian.

Professor West defended the traditional job of literary scholar. Humbly to seek understanding of great works knowing that we can never hope to know the mind of Horace. To seek the truth that we can never find. Scholarship is a business of using our senses, intelligence, emotions and imagination, all of them under the discipline of history.

As we travel further in time from Horace, even after 20 centuries, make us Professor West take us closer to understanding his ancient master works. This may not be fashionable literary theory. It is better than that: to help us to understand a great poem in an act of creative poetry itself.

## Birthdays

Mr Peter Attenborough, former Headmaster, Charterhouse, 57; Sir John Beth, diplomat, 81; Mr Den Dover, MP, 57; Mrs Margaret Dupont, tennis champion, 60; Dr Chris Fay, chairman, Shell UK, 50; Brigadier Anne Field, former director, WRAC, 69; Mr J.M. Fleming, former chairman, Vauxhall Motors, 65; Lord Indraba, 60; Lord Jelliffe, 77; Mr Gregory Knight, MP, 46; Colonel Sir Bryce Knox, former Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, 79; Viscount Leathers, 87; Mr Richard Mansel-Jones, chairman, I. B. & S. and Sons, 55; Professor David Millar, Vice-Chancellor, Middlesex University, 51; Mr Tim Newell, Governor, Grenville Prison, 53; Mr Paul Parker, footballer, 31; Mr Barry Ream, general secretary, CPSA, 46; Mr Ian Robertson, director, National Army Museum, 52; Mr Dave Sexton, football manager, 65; Dame Catherine Tizard, Governor-General of New Zealand, 64; Professor George Wedell, former director-general, European Institute for the Media, 68.



Trevor Griffiths, the playwright, is 60 today

Edward John Stanley, 18th Earl of Derby, of Knowsley Hall, Merseyside, machine owner and member of the Jockey Club, left estate valued at £43,212,465 net.

Sir Alexander Sandor Alexander, of London W1, Czech-born industrialist, financier and patron of the arts, left estate valued at £2,971,041 net.

Mr Paul Leon Mechulam, of Epsom, Surrey, left estate valued at £969,423 net.

Among other bequests he left the Epsom home, known as "The Rectory", to his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Jane, and the Epsom home, known as "The Rectory", to his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Jane, and the Epsom home, known as "The Rectory", to his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Jane.

Archaeology  
Bone disease is the stuff of Norse legend

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A NORSE saga telling of a man whose skull could resist axe blows has been linked with the pathological condition of Paget's disease. Although the bones themselves still await examination, the saga's dramatic words make the diagnosis a plausible one.

"Egil, the son of Skall-Grim, is the most memorable Viking to appear in the Old Norse sagas," says Jesse I. Byock, Professor of Medieval Scandinavian Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. Although brave, bright and lucky, Egil is portrayed as ugly, irritable and brooding. Like his father and grandfather, he was physically menacing.

In later life Egil became deaf, blind, lost his sense of balance, and suffered from chronically cold feet. His head and face became disfigured. His head was described as "like a hard rock" and when his bones were reinterred about AD 1150, 160 years after his death in Iceland, his descendant Skapti Thorarinnsson noted some striking features of the skull.

"It was ridged all over on the outside like a scallop shell.

Skapti picked up a heavy axe and struck as hard as he was able, trying to break the skull. But the skull neither broke nor dented: it simply turned white at the point of impact," says Egil's saga. Although this has been cited as evidence of the fanciful nature of the sagas, Professor Byock claims it shows just the opposite.

A corrugated skull surface is one symptom of Paget's disease, he says, as is the ivory-like resilience of the bone remarked by Skapti. The saga's description of Egil's large and prominent features also fits, as do his infirmities in old age. Professor Byock says: the description of Egil is so far from normal saga speech that a true representation of his striking appearance is likely.

Although Sir James Paget did not define his eponymous affliction until 1877, Professor Byock believes that it has important repercussions for the interpretation of Viking life eight centuries earlier; the accurate detail of Egil's appearance and decline suggests that other information in the Sagas may be equally reliable. Source: *Scientific American* Vol 272 No 1:82-87.

## Latest wills

Mr William Hamilton Elliot, of London, Northumberland, £908,724.

Mr John Bailey Cox of Rowlands Castle, Hampshire, £897,919.

Mr Walter Edward Goodger, of London SW16, £595,551.

Mr Eric Goodall, of Tuxford, Nottingham, £1,228,520.

Mrs Gladys Rose Gordon, of London, £742,097.

Mr William Alan Hadley, of Sutton Coldfield, £908,064.

Mr John Martin Thomas Hughes, of Great Rissington, Gloucestershire, £880,470.

Mr Graeme Urquhart Inglis, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, £572,754.

Mr Charles Jenkins, of Tansworth, Lincolnshire, £713,662.

Mr Martin Stanley Kirby, of Turin, Cornwall, £1,004,121.

Mr Gordon James Lane, of Westcliff on Sea, Essex, £797,842.

Mrs Edith Bessie McGregor Morley, of Solihull, £802,966.

Mr Arthur Simpson, of London NW8, £1,140,738.

Mrs Joan Crawley Ross Skinner, of London, £742,097.

Mrs Joan Joy Theobald, of Chinner Hill, Oxfordshire, £615,893.

Mr Patrick Arnold Hammond-Turner, of Ashted, Surrey, £1,084,554.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. Akka and Miss C. Squires  
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Akka, of Prestbury, Cheshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Squires, of Belgrave, London.

Captain P.A. Bernthal, RMC, and Captain E.M.M. Parry, QARANC  
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mrs F. Bernthal, of Gillingham, Kent, and Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel and Mrs R.M.M. Parry, of Coombe Bisset, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr P.J.R. Vacher and Mrs Z. Kruger  
The engagement is announced between Pierre Vacher, of London, SW6, and Zia Kruger, of West Kingston, Wiltshire.

Mr R.I. Wallace and Miss L.J. Harcourt  
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Wallace, of Horsham, Sussex, and Laura, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Harcourt, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.R. Etherington and Miss K.C. Renbow  
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Etherington, of Bideford, Devon, and Chelsea, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Renbow, of Offham, Sussex.

Mr T.R.G. Vestey and Mrs T.M. Shepherd-Barrow  
The marriage took place on Friday, March 31, at St. Andrew's, Chelsea, between Timothy Vestey and Tessa Shepherd-Barrow. The honeymoon is being spent abroad.

## Church appointments

The Rev John Methuen, Rector of Hulme in the diocese of Manchester, is to be Dean of Ripon, succeeding the Very Rev Christopher Crampton, who is retiring on July 2.

The Rev David Watkin, Dean of Manchester for Cumbria (South-west), is to be Vicar, Trant Vale (Lichfield).

The Rev Canon Jeremy Peake, Chaplain of Christ Church, Victoria, Australia, is to be also Archdeacon of the Aegean and the Danube (Europe).

The Rev Kenneth Anderson, formerly Rector, Marconera, Chaplain of the Borewall Trust and Vice-Chairman of the Marconera Regional Hospital Board, is to be Vicar, Trant Vale (Lichfield).

The Rev Roger Billings, Vicar, St Paul, W. All Saints, Chatham (Kent), is to be Vicar, Carterton (Oxford).

The Rev Michael Brundage, Acting Curate, St Clement, Notting Hill (London), is to be Vicar, St Mary, Swanley (Kent).

The Rev David Callard, Team Rector, Oakdale St George Team Ministry (Salisbury), is to be also a Non-Residential Canon of Salisbury Cathedral.

The Rev Stephen Carter, Vicar, North Shropshire, is to be Rector, Chobham, London (Chichester).

The Rev Canon Peter G. W. Smith, Rector, St George, Wiltshire (Salisbury), is to be also a Non-Residential Canon of Salisbury Cathedral.

The Rev Charles Chadwick, Team Vicar, Great Marlow Team Ministry, is to be Priest-in-charge, Stokenchurch, W. Thames, and also Assistant Director of the Children's Christian Training Programmes (Oxford).

The Rev David Collier, Vicar, St Andrew, Handsworth (Birmingham), is to be also an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.

The Rev Mervyn Cousins, Rector, Lutterworth, W. Cambridgeshire, is to be also Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Binswell (Leicester).

The Rev Christopher Finch, Vicar, St Denys, Evington, is to be also Priest-in-charge, St Philip (Leicester).

The Rev Joan Fry, Curate (NSM), Swansage and Studdard Team Ministry, is to be Curate (NSM).

Bridport Team Ministry (Salisbury)  
The Rev Andrew Gair, Assistant Curate, Chare w. Puddingstone (Salisbury), is to be Rector, Chare w. Puddingstone (Salisbury).

The Rev John Hewes, permission to officiate, diocese Canterbury.  
The Rev Adrian Hopwood, NSM, Chesham Bois, is to be Curate (NSM), Kidlington (Oxford).

The Rev Stannard Kirby, Team Vicar, Hanley Team Ministry, is to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Walsall (Lichfield).

Resignations and retirements  
The Rev John Capstick, Vicar, Netherthorpe and a Team Vicar in the Upper Holme Valley Team Ministry (Walsfield), is to retire as from October 2.

The Rev Canon Peter Harlow, Team Rector, Saffron Walden Team Ministry (Chelmsford), is to retire as from July 31, when he will be appointed a Canon Emeritus of Chelmsford Cathedral.

The Rev John Haynes, Vicar, Radford Semele and Upton (Coventry), is to retire as from the end of April.

The Rev Alfred Key, Vicar, Chichester (Lichfield), is to retire as from April 30.

## Limeian Society of London

The Limeian Society of London has made the following awards:  
The Limeian Medal for services to botany: Dr Stuart Max Walters, Cambridge.

The Limeian Medal for services to ecology: Professor John Maynard Smith, University of Sussex.

The F.H. Bloomer Award for an amateur naturalist who has made an important contribution to biological knowledge: Mrs Betty Blom, Gosport, Hampshire.

The Broomfield Medal in recognition of work done by a biologist under 40: Marie Helen Kirmann, Royal Botanic gardens, Kew.

The J.M. Synthes Prize for published botanical illustration: Rosemary Wye, Oxford.

The J.M. Synthes Prize for the best Ph.D. thesis in botany: Dr Sally L. Glocking, University of Reading.

BMD's: 0171 782 7272  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 9313  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

**BIRTHS**  
PATTONS - On April 1st, to Francesca (née Evely) and William, a daughter, Mary Charlotte, a sister for Frederick.

SELBY - On 31st March at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, a beautiful daughter, Harriet, to Mr and Mrs Selby, a sister for Philip, a son.

BEATY - On 1st April, to Wendy (née Foster) and John, a son, Thomas James Alexander, a brother for Jack.

BERNARD - On April 2nd 1995, to Catherine (née Foster) and John, a daughter, Catherine Mary, a sister for Patrick and John.

COPPIN - On 17th March 1995, to Hazel (née Harrison) and Stephen, a son, Charles Sebastian, a brother for David.

de LOTHIAN - On March 31st 1995, to Victoria and Christopher, a daughter, Sasha.

DOWN - On 31st March 1995, to Helen (née Jones) and Nigel, a daughter, Camilla, a sister for David.

FRANKS - On 23rd March at Queen Charlotte's, to Lisa and Peter, a beautiful daughter, Alice Mary.

FREEMAN - On 24th March 1995 at Madras Hospital, to Helen (née Jones) and Peter, a son, Alexander Charles, a brother for George.

GRIN - On 30th March, at Queen Mary's, Bournemouth, to Juliet (née Lacey) and Tobias, a daughter, Hannah Rebecca.

HARRATTY - On 30th March 1995, to Helen and Andrew, a baby son, Patrick David. A welcome.

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## CHRISTOPHER FALKUS









**ARTS 28, 29**  
There is at least one big book left in Robertson Davies



**LAW 31**  
Home Secretary and the new policing rules



**SPORT 35-40**  
Troubled Lyle on a trip down memory lane

**MARATHON: MORE OF THE RUNNERS**  
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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

## Baring and Tuckey quit without pay

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

PETER BARING and Andrew Tuckey, the chairman and deputy chairman of Barings, the City merchant bank that collapsed five weeks ago, have resigned.

Their departure yesterday was interpreted as "a matter of honour". It was seen as an admission of their responsibility for the events that led to the failure of the bank, though not of liability. Internationale Nederlanden Groep (ING), the Dutch banking group that bought Barings from its administrators, said it accepted their resignations "with regret".

They are understood to have received no payments for loss of office and did not ask for any. When ING bought Barings last month, both waived their rights to bonus payments for 1994. However, they will receive payments to cover the three-month notice periods for their contracts with Baring Brothers & Co, the merchant bank.

ING bought Barings in a £660 million rescue at the beginning of March after the bank ran up losses of £860 million from trading in financial futures and options in Japan and Singapore.

There had been a growing feeling among staff and clients that Barings' senior executives ought to step down and there was mounting criticism at their apparent reluctance to do so. One Barings merchant banker said: "It is wholly inappropriate to incur losses of this size without someone taking responsibility. You do not make £1.2 million as chairman without taking responsibility."

A spokesman for Barings said the two had in fact offered their resignations last month when ING bought the bank, but that they were persuaded to stay on. He said: "They resigned as a matter of principle, not as a matter of blame."

Since the ING takeover, they had worked to integrate Barings with the ING group, he said.

Since the Barings collapse on February 27, rival merchant banks have been stalking the bank's clients. Baring Asset Management is believed to be the only business to have suffered — it lost 2 per cent of its assets under management when two of its clients moved their business.

Most clients, however, have waited to see if the fund managers and corporate financiers who handle their business decide to stay before making any decision to move.

Mr Baring and Mr Tuckey had planned to stay on until the Bank of England published its report on the Barings collapse. But Eddie George, Bank Governor, said last week that the first instalment will not be ready until the end of May, so they decided not to wait.

ING said it will wait for the report before making any decisions on the future of other staff. However, several other people are expected to go once the report is published — one estimate yesterday put the number likely to go at between 12 and 20.

One Barings director said some employees would have talked to their lawyers who "would have advised that any kind of resignation before the report would be seen as an admission of liability."

The Bank's report will detail events in Singapore and examine the role played by Barings' senior futures trader Nick Leeson, who is currently in prison in Frankfurt and fighting an extradition attempt by the Singaporean authorities.

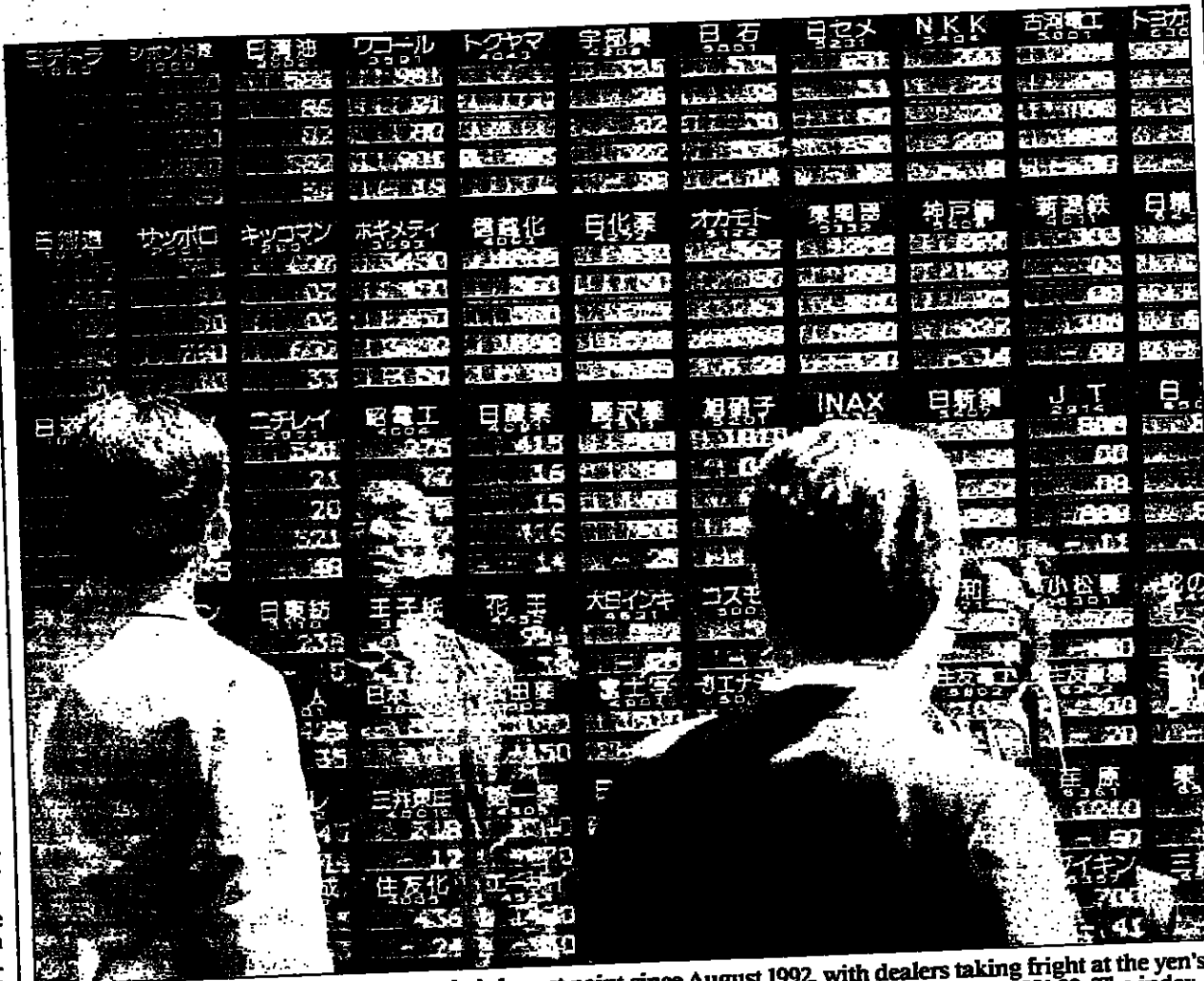
It will also examine the role of Barings' management in both Singapore and London. Some of the London executives sanctioned huge cash transfers to support Mr Leeson's trading positions.

Mr Baring and Mr Tuckey resigned as directors of Barings plc and also as members of the committees currently conducting the management of Barings.

However, Mr Tuckey will stay on as a consultant to Barings' corporate finance business. His consultancy fees were yesterday said to be still under negotiation.

Michael Miles, an executive director of Barings, and Onno van den Broek, a director of ING, will become joint chairmen of the management committee of Baring Brothers Limited.

## All victims of the mighty yen



Red alert: Japanese stocks plunged to their lowest point since August 1992, with dealers taking fright at the yen's strength against the dollar. The Nikkei 225 share index fell 758.66 points, of 4.7 per cent, to 15,381.29. The index has fallen 22 per cent since January. Dealers predict further falls unless the Bank of Japan cuts its discount rate.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3143.1	(+5.2)
Yield	4.34%	
FT-SE All share	1540.81	(+1.87)
Nikkei	15381.29	(-758.66)
New York		
Dow Jones	4164.26	(+6.57)
S&P Composite	500.86	(+0.15)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	6 1/4%	(6%)
Long Bond	102 1/8%	(102%)
Yield	7.35%	(7.44%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6 1/4%	(6%)
Life long gilt	103 1/8%	(102%)
Future (Jun)		
STERLING		
New York	1.6165*	(1.6225)
London		
\$	1.6179	(1.6209)
DM	2.2190	(2.2287)
FF	7.7780	(7.7790)
SF	1.6168	(1.6161)
Yen	139.55	(140.72)
Index	85.0	(85.3)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.3733*	(1.3730)
FF	4.8150*	(4.8090)
SF	1.1235*	(1.1255)
Yen	88.20*	(88.60)
Index	89.1	(89.0)
Tokyo close Yen	87.00	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$17.10	(\$17.20)
GOLD		
London close	\$382.46	(\$382.05)
* denotes midday trading price		

## Seagram's star-struck head shoots for MCA

By Eric Reguly

SPECULATION mounted on Wall Street yesterday that the Seagram Company, one of the world's biggest distributors, is preparing to buy the Hollywood studio MCA from its Japanese owner.

Newspaper reports said that Seagram, whose portfolio includes Chivas Regal Scotch, Tropicana orange juice and Martell's champagne, would finance the MCA purchase by selling its 24.4 per cent stake in du Pont, North America's leading chemicals producer, for about \$10 billion. One report said the du Pont sale, which would produce a profit of \$7 billion, would be announced in two weeks.

Neither Seagram nor Matsushita, the Japanese conglomerate that owns MCA, would comment. It is widely known, however, that Matsushita might welcome the opportunity to make a graceful exit from Hollywood, an expensive experiment for the Japanese.

Yoichi Morishita, MCA's president, recently said: "There might be some possibilities in the future regarding its MCA ownership. The company bought MCA for \$6.6 billion in 1990 as part of its strategy of combining 'hardware', its own electronics products, with 'software', entertainment such as films, MCA's Universal Pictures, producer of hits as *Twister*, *E.T.* and *Back to the Future*, as well as Universal Television and Geffen Records.

American analysts said MCA might carry a price tag of \$10 billion. Other potential bidders are said to include Philips, the Dutch electronics group that owns PolyGram records, TCI, the largest American cable company, and Bertelsmann, the German publisher.

Seagram appears to be a strong contender partly because its president, Edgar Bronfman Jr., the grandson of the Prohibition-era rum runner that founded the company, has Hollywood in his blood. Mr Bronfman, 39, a close friend of Sir David Putnam, the Oscar-winning producer of *Chariots of Fire*, worked as a movie producer before being hired to Seagram. His best-known effort was a 1982 Jack Nicholson film called *The Border*.

Mr Bronfman joined Seagram in 1984 and later, as president, engineered several large acquisitions, including a 15 per cent stake in Time Warner, the entertainment and publishing group based in New York. In a 1992 interview, Sir David said he nurtured Mr Bronfman's interest in entertainment. "His first love outside business is theatre, then cinema," he said.

Nicholson film called *The Border*.

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Pennington, page 23

## Rising prices in industry hasten higher base rate

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PRESSURE for an interest rate rise was reinforced yesterday by new figures showing continuing price rises in industry and strong output growth.

The latest figures from purchasing managers suggested rising inflation pressures and so the need for further increases in interest rates. However, City analysts believe that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, are unlikely to agree to a new rate rise at their monthly meeting tomorrow.

But City forecasters believe that further economic evidence this month is likely to confirm pressure for higher rates, and that another half-point increase in base rates is likely in May.

The latest purchasing managers' figures from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), published yesterday, suggest continuing price pressures and capacity problems as manufacturing expansion remains strong.

Upward pressure on prices continued, with the CIPS prices index rising from 73.2 in February to 75 in March. Apart from January's 75.2 figure, this is the highest since the survey began.

Over half the purchasing managers surveyed reported further rises in the price of materials, fuels and semi-manufactured goods. Prices were being pushed up by the weakness of sterling, which led to higher import prices, and by supply shortages.

The overall purchasing managers' index edged down to 55.7 from 56.8, but the institute said that it still indicated strong growth in manufacturing.

Headline year-on-year growth in UK, the narrow measure of M0 money supply, rose strongly last month, triggered by a leap in bank deposits. M0 rose by a seasonally adjusted 7 per cent in the year to March, far higher than February's 6.2 per cent rate and the 6.6 per cent increase many had predicted. But most of the impetus came from a big increase in bank balances at the Bank of England, which is normal ahead of Easter.

## SE may cut dealers' privileges

THE London Stock Exchange is considering cutting the privileges of market-makers in the wake of the Northern Electric affair.

Swiss Bank Corporation's securities business built up large stakes in regional electricity companies on its own account and to meet contracts ultimately held by Trafalgar House, which bid for Northern.

Listed companies fear that market-makers could abuse exemption from disclosing share stakes above 3 per cent, under the Companies Act 1985, to encourage predators.

In a consultative document, the exchange asks whether the definition of a market-maker might be tightened or the exemptions modified by LSE rules.

The Exchange says that 135 stakes of more than 3 per cent were disclosed to it privately by market-makers last year, against only 21 in 1994. Of the 1994 big holdings, 56 were held for less than five days, but 31 for more than three months. Most were valued at less than £1 million.

Pennington, page 23

## Second successive boom year for world trade forecast

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

WORLD trade is heading for a second year of strong expansion in 1995, after its best year for nearly two decades, the World Trade Organisation's first annual survey predicts.

The volume of world trade in goods last year expanded by 9 per cent, the fastest since 1976 and nearly three times the 3.5 per cent growth in world merchandise output. The value of exports grew by 12 per cent, topping £4,000 billion for the first time.

The WTO expects 1995 to show above-average growth, though not quite as fast.

Office machinery and telecommunications equipment, a category that includes computers and semi-conductors, now accounts for 11 per cent of world trade after again growing much more strongly than the average. Trade in these high-technology goods is now bigger than the trade in food, fuels or cars, the WTO calculates. The value of trade in services, which usually outpaces goods, grew at only half the rate of merchandise last year.

The biggest boost to trade growth came from Western Europe, where the value of exports and imports grew more than 11 per cent. Western European trade shrank in 1993, restricting the growth in world trade to 3 per cent.

The rising yen again hit Japan's exports. By volume, they grew by only 2 per cent last year, the slowest of any big economy, having changed little in 1992-1993. The volume of Japan's imports, by contrast, grew 13.5 per cent.

Central and Eastern Europe raised export volumes by 11.5 per cent last year, outpaced only by the Far East tigers — Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, which, with Thailand and Malaysia, were up 15 per cent.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in a separate survey, estimates that the economies of Eastern Europe grew by an aggregate 4 per cent last year, the first rise since 1989, and should expand at a similar pace this year. In Russia, however, output fell by an estimated 15 per cent in 1994 and is likely to shrink again, albeit more slowly, this year.

## Workers expect to enjoy bosses' big pay rises

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

HIGH salary rises for top executives, especially in privatised utilities, are likely to stoke workers' expectations of bigger pay increases, the conciliation service Acas says today.

The warning from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, the Government's principal employee relations agency, is the first time any government-linked body has acknowledged the wider impact of the pay rises for privatised utility bosses. Although its council is independent, Acas is funded by the Department of Employment.

Acas also makes clear today that, for the first time since before the recession, dealing with pay disputes now forms more than half its work.

In its annual report, published today, the conciliation service records a "growing controversy" about the "appropriateness of very large additions to the pay of some senior managers, particularly in privatised organisations", and especially when the rises coincide with heavy redundancies. The service, which tends to be cautious in public statements because of the necessity of impartiality and confidentiality, notes that this may lead to a greater wage push after a long period of pay restraint.

John Hougham, Acas chairman, says: "It is at least likely that the levels of remuneration which have been made very prominently for some of the leading captains of industry might stoke up other people's expectations further down the pay chain."

Acas officials acknowledge that high pay and big rises for utility chiefs raise questions of pay equity among other employees, and may well "encourage greater vigour in employee demands".

The conciliation service records a sharp rise in disputes, especially over pay, as measured by requests to it by employers and unions for collective conciliation, such as the assistance Acas gave in settling last year's rail signallers' strikes.

Such requests were up by 8 per cent in 1994. Virtually all the increase concerned pay disputes, which, for the first time since 1990, form more than half the service's collective dispute workload. Officials accept that pay disputes are increasing as the economy recovers.

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## Aer Lingus picks BAE

Aer Lingus is to lease three British Aerospace 146 planes to launch jet services from Dublin to Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Bristol and Edinburgh.

BAE has just become sole jet supplier to Crossair, the Swiss regional airline, and is hoping to win a 20-plane order for regional jets from Sabena, the Belgian national carrier.

## FII refocuses

The new management team at FII Group, a leading footwear supplier to Marks & Spencer, has sold its scientific equipment business to Life Sciences International for £3 million and bought Law Trading, a designer and source of footwear, for £6.1 million.

## US deal

Raytheon Corporation of the US is to pay \$2.3 billion for E-Systems, a leading maker of military intelligence systems.

# Mercury fears convergence of BT and Cellnet

By ERIC REGULY

MERCURY One-2-One, the third largest mobile-phone operator, has told Ofel, the industry regulator, that the biggest threat to competition in the market is the inevitable convergence of British Telecom and 60 per cent-owned Cellnet.

Richard Goswell, managing director of One-2-One, said the coming together of BT and Cellnet would "raise issues about dominance and anti-competitive behavior". BT controls more than 90 per cent of the residential telephone market and Cellnet is only slightly smaller than Vodafone, the market leader.

Mr Goswell is particularly concerned about joint billing, whereby Cellnet customers would receive a single bill from BT for their mobile and home phones. A single bill, he said, would be a powerful disincentive to "churn," the industry's term for customers dropping their service and going to a competing network. Reducing high churn rates, currently about 25 per cent a year, is one of the mobile phone biggest challenges. "Cellnet and BT are the only ones that could offer joint billing, so it is a competitive issue," he said.

BT and Cellnet have no immediate plans for joint billing, but trials could occur within the next two years. "Joint billing is an aspiration for the industry, and it is looking most feasible for BT and Cellnet," said William Osborn, a Cellnet spokesman.

BT and Cellnet have a project called "fixed-mobile convergence," which is examining ways to combine certain services. One, called Personal Assistant, which allows Cellnet

and BT customers to be traced with a single phone number, is now being tested.

BT hopes to forge closer financial links with Cellnet as well. It has made no secret that it would like to buy Securicor's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, but would need permission from the Department of Trade and Industry to do so.

Separately, Cellnet reported that it added 715,000 new customers in its March 31 financial year, raising the total number to 1.73 million. Vodafone remained in first place, with 1.82 million customers at the end of March. Cellnet predicted in January that it would unseat Vodafone as the market leader this year. One-2-One, owned by Cable and Wireless and US West, a regional phone company in America, said it now has 260,000 customers.



Digging deep: Alan Shearer, chief executive of Camas, the building materials group demerged from English China Clays Camas, reported a rise in profits to £19.2 million from £10.98 million in 1994. A final dividend of 2.5p brings the total to 3.75p. *Tempus*, page 24

## Saatchi links with Publicis

By MARTIN WALLER

MAURICE SAATCHI, deposed head of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency, has teamed up with the French advertising group Publicis ahead of his assault this week on the vital British Airways account, which he is trying to poach from his old employer.

His New Saatchi Agency has signed an international co-operation deal with Publicis, which will provide logistical and technical services, as well as media strategy, planning and buying. The link will start with a joint presentation to British Airways for global management of its advertising.

Saatchi & Saatchi, one of the two main advertising networks in the now renamed Cordiant, has held the £60 million a year BA account for more than 11 years. Its latest huge BA campaign opens this week.

The Saatchi-Publicis link does not involve an exchange of equity and has no effect on Publicis's alliance with True North, the US agency.



## General Accident

## EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR 1995

### ANNUAL REPORT 1994

	Year to 31.12.94 Audited £m	Year to 31.12.93 Audited £m
General Premiums	4,253.2	4,181.8
Life Premiums	887.3	866.1
Underwriting Result	(70.6)	(229.0)
Life Profits	53.3	49.1
Profit before Taxation	428.3	294.9
Ordinary Dividends	131.4	124.1
Technical Reserves	5,818.3	5,800.3
Cash Flow from Operations	608.2	467.6

Commenting on prospects in his Operational Review of 1994, Nelson Robertson, Group Chief Executive, says:

"Whilst we anticipate an increasingly challenging operating environment for our UK general insurance and life assurance businesses, we believe that the various initiatives we have taken and continue to take will enable us once again to record good performances in our home markets.

These, together with further gains anticipated in the United States and improvements in other important areas of our business provide excellent prospects for our operating performance in 1995."

*Nelson Robertson*  
Nelson Robertson  
Group Chief Executive

## General Accident plc

General Accident plc, World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH

A copy of General Accident's 1994 Annual Report can be obtained from the Company Secretary at the above address.

## Labour revises its training levy plan

LABOUR yesterday signalled a shift in its plans for industrial training by offering alternatives to its proposed training levy. Business leaders have been pressing Labour to modify its proposals, under which all employers, except very small ones, would be required to invest a "minimum amount" in training — previously put by Labour at up to 1 per cent of turnover — or contribute to a training levy.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Employment Secretary, last night put forward three options within a clear commitment to a statutory approach. These are a revised levy with greater flexibility, reflecting the growth of smaller companies; an employee entitlement to, perhaps, five days' training a year; and learning accounts, under which employers and employees would contribute to an account to pay for training, which employees could take to new jobs.

## Date for Famous II

HIGHLAND DISTILLERS aims to have its new spirit brand — a gin or a vodka to accompany its Famous Grouse whisky — in supermarkets by the end of this year, the company said. Pre-tax profits of £23.7 million in the six months to February 28 were little changed from £23.4 million last time. The results were at the bottom end of City expectations. The interim dividend is raised from 1.76p to 1.90p, paid out of earnings up 3 per cent to 12.6p. *Tempus*, page 24

## Pentos costs Cassell

CASSELL, the publisher floated on the stock market last summer, took a £145,000 hit from the collapse of Pentos, owner of the Dillons bookshop chain, but still managed to push pre-tax profits ahead by 38 per cent to £827,000 last year. Lower interest charges following the float helped. Profits were little changed at £1.3 million against £1.2 million. Cassell is paying a maiden dividend of 3p out of earnings per share for 1994 of 13.1p after exceptionals.

## PowerGen venture

POWERGEN has signed contracts to take a 35 per cent stake in a huge coal-fired power station to be built at Paton, Indonesia. The 1,200 megawatt plant, which is expected to cost \$1.6 billion, will be managed and maintained by PowerGen for 30 years. The company's partners in the joint venture, PT Java Power, will be Siemens of Germany, which will hold half the equity and build the plant, and an Indonesian company that will have 15 per cent.

## L&M pensions setback

LONDON & MANCHESTER, the life assurance and financial services group, has set aside £24 million to cover the cost of compensating individuals for mis-selling of pensions. The news came as L&M announced a pre-tax profit of £38.9 million in the year to December 31, up 16.5% from £33.4 million last time. The final dividend was lifted from 10.56p to 11.56p, making a total for the year of 17.16p, up from 15.68p. The shares rose 3p to 343p.

## Airport deal may lift BA

BRITISH Airways and BAA have renegotiated lease terms on the airline's holdings at Heathrow, which may boost BA's balance sheet by £250 million (Carl Mortished writes).

BAA is giving a lease extension to BA, its largest tenant, on 185 of the 224 acres occupied by the airline. The new leases, on sites including hangars and the Boadicea computer centre, will give BA more control and the right to sublet. Existing leases, at well below market rents, were to expire in 60 years and would be subject to a market rent review in five years. The lease is now extended to 150 years, with inflation adjustment of rent every five years. BA returns 39 acres.

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.50	2.13
Austria Sch	13.75	12.25
Belgium Fr	48.02	44.02
Canada C\$	2.388	2.206
Cyprus Cyp	0.775	0.770
Denmark Kr	8.45	8.85
Finland Mk	1.52	1.52
France Fr	7.57	8.82
Germany Dm	2.38	2.18
Greece Dr	352.00	357.00
Hong Kong \$	12.14	12.14
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Italy Lira	5,928	4,604
Japan Yen	289.00	271.00
Malaysia M	185.00	188.00
Netherlands Gld	0.832	0.827
Norway Kr	2.855	2.425
Portugal Esc	10.55	9.78
Spain Ptas	247.50	228.00
Sweden Kr	1.01	0.98
Switzerland Fr	218.00	199.00
Taiwan Nt\$	12.88	11.78
Thailand Ba	1.97	1.78
USA \$	1.714	1.594

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

**BMS**

BMS Associates Limited, the holding company of Lloyd's Broker Ballantyne, MacKen & Sullivan Limited wishes to announce the following changes, effective 1st April 1995.

**BMS Associates Limited**

Group Managing Director: Mr D. Sullivan

Ballantyne, MacKen & Sullivan Limited

Chairman: Mr R.E.P. Ballantyne

Deputy Chairman: Mr M.S. Curley

Managing Director - Production: Mr C.B. MacKenzie

Managing Director - Services: Mr B.D. Cooper

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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

Curbing market-makers' perks □ Lessons of Leeson cannot be rushed □ Japan falls out with Tinseltown

# Profits of privilege

IF there is a thin line between genius and madness, a similar ambiguity exists between skillful innovation and being too clever at exploiting the rules. Rival market-makers on the London Stock Exchange will surely soon conclude that Swiss Bank Corporation has been a little too smart for their good.

Trafalgar House's takeover bid for Northern Electric will go down in corporate history for several reasons, notably because it broke the previous unspoken social contract between many utilities and their regulators. It might also have far-reaching effects on the way shares are traded on the Stock Exchange.

Knowing that the bid was not sure of success, SBC's corporate finance advisers devised ways to defray the cost without committing Trafalgar to owning chunks of Northern. The scheme featured "tailor-made" derivatives called "contracts of differences" with SBC's market-making business, which allowed Trafalgar (and SBC itself) to benefit from the rise in share prices of all regional electricity companies triggered by Trafalgar's bid.

These deals involved interpreting a series of regulations. Several centre round the Chinese walls of silence between parts of an investment bank to avoid breaching, among other things, the City Takeover Code and

insider trading laws. The Stock Exchange's latest consultation paper considers another regulation crucial to the scheme. Market-makers are exempted from a general rule under the Companies Act 1985 that anyone acquiring 3 per cent or more of a company's voting shares must tell it within two days. They do not have to say at all, except if served notice by the company. Only this did it emerge that SBC had a 6 per cent of Yorkshire Electricity.

If market-makers can do this, their parents have a huge commercial advantage in setting up takeover deals. They also thwart the intentions of the Act. Exemptions were aimed at the independent specialist stock-jobbers, which existed before the 1986 Big Bang. To wholesale shares, they often needed a big stake for a short time, with no intention of exercising votes.

Firms that make markets in small companies, where there is not much liquidity, still need to do this, for instance to avoid spoiling the market if there is a big seller. But modern market-makers regularly take positions

as short-term investments. The privileges are too great and obsolete. The best market-makers can now ask for is some delay in disclosing their stakes in the same ways as anyone else. Allowing them five days instead of two would still exempt most genuine smoothing operations. If only stakes above £1 million needed disclosing, the small company market-makers would also retain protection.

Unless the rules are changed, abuse is likely to grow fast. The Takeover Panel and the Securities and Futures Authority should now review their rules as fast as the Stock Exchange.



swords, both stress that their resignations have been available to ING "as a matter of principle" for some time. ING has accepted the resignations "with regret" and acknowledges the duo's "massive commitment" to the re-establishment of Barings' operational base. In the event, Tuckey's encounter with business steel will not prove fatal. At the request of ING, he has agreed to remain a senior advisor to Barings' corporate finance division.

Such is the stuff of official announcements. Unofficially, it can be assumed that neither ING nor Barings is ecstatic about Governor Eddie George's recent revelation that Part 1 of the Board of Banking Supervision's

investigation into the affair will not be completed until early June. Part 1 is a fact-finding exercise, intended to establish the precise events that led to Barings' collapse.

Ian Watt, who heads the Bank's Special Investigations Unit, is spearheading the probe. Part 2 will identify the lessons to be drawn from the Barings debacle. But it is difficult to draw lessons before the facts have been fully ascertained. In view of this, Part 2, which will include an assessment of the Bank's supervisory role, will take a further three months to compile before it is tied up in a ribbon for the Chancellor.

ING, eager to rehabilitate its new-found acquisition, would doubtless like the facts out before June. Nor, presumably, does Barings, where certain heads sit uneasy, relish this long shadow from the sword of Damocles. Unfortunately, Barings' fate is of its own making and, with much at stake, speed can hardly be the Bank's priority. Peter Baring has opted, but Nick Leeson, the alleged "rogue trader", has yet to reveal his

version of events. Is Leeson prepared to unburden himself to the Bank? On this matter the Old Lady remains exceedingly silent.

## The stuff of dreams

ONLY a very brave or a very foolish man would willingly walk a path that the shrewd and industrious Japanese are now regretting having trodden. Edgar Bronfman Jr is clearly the former. The sort of deal he can wrest from the mighty Matsushita combine will show whether he is also the latter.

Mr Bronfman, the incumbent dynasty member at Seagram, is looking at reinvesting the money, made from selling out of Du Pont, in the MCA entertainment empire bought five years ago by Matsushita.

This would be part of a continuing process whereby the Americans get the chance to buy back Hollywood from the Japanese at rather less than Tinseltown fetched when large chunks were last sold. Matsushita is regretting the MCA deal

and looking for a partner, which might allow Mr Bronfman to live out his dream of being a real film mogul. At the same time, Sony, which bought into Columbia and Tristar, is probably equally unhappy with that deal.

A Seagram purchase of MCA would swap a solid and predictable cyclical investment in chemicals for a business whose earnings are wholly unpredictable.

At the same time, if the Japanese have stumbled, then now is an attractive time to get cheaply into film production ahead of the forecast huge upsurge in demand from the various new channels and formats. Nonetheless it would be a curious deal; one at which even our own dear Grand Metropolitan, hyperactive dealmaker and Seagram's big rival, might balk.

## Bean there

ANDREAS STARIBACHER, a 38-year old chartered accountant and bean counter — the surprise weekend choice to be Austria's Finance Minister — is an expert in corporate valuations, clearly a must in the age of privatisation. If Britain is to stay in the van, it surely cannot be long before the entire Treasury, let alone the Chancellorship, is contracted out to Ernst & Young, Price Waterhouse or KPMG.

# Govett to auction fund management business

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOVETT, the Anglo-American fund manager and insurance group, has put its fund management business up for auction after the sale of the rival Jupiter Tyndall to Commerzbank last week.

Govett hopes that the business, which has \$5.1 billion of funds under management, will attract offers of \$250 million to \$270 million.

Arthur Truerg, chairman of Govett, said: "These properties are very rare, they are going for premium prices." Govett's shares last night closed 26p higher, at 285p.

Govett is being sued for \$20

million in the US on fraud and racketeering claims by an investment trust that it once managed. The action, which Govett strongly contests, hit the company's share price, supplanting its plans to take over Duff & Phelps, the US fund manager.

Govett is countering Govett American Endeavour Fund, the Jersey-based investment trust that it used to manage, claiming \$100 million damages.

Mr Truerg said that, after the collapse of the Duff & Phelps deal, two firms had asked about buying the two fund manage-

ment businesses, John Govett & Co. in London, and Govett Asset Management Company, in San Francisco.

After the \$277 million Jupiter Tyndall sale of a business with \$6.1 billion under management, Mr Truerg said that Govett decided to "open the door more widely".

Bear Stearns has been asked to sound out potential buyers in America and Govett has appointed Schroders, which tied up the sale of Jupiter Tyndall, to seek potential buyers in the UK and on the Continent.

Mr Truerg said: "[Fund

management businesses] have to be of a certain size. If you cannot get there by acquiring someone else, you should turn around and be acquired."

Proceeds of a sale will be used for working capital for developing the company's other businesses — a life insurance operation, a trust company and a development capital business. Mr Truerg said that some would be kept in reserve "for business opportunities and contingencies" and some would be returned to shareholders. This could be in the form of a special dividend or a share buyback.

## Morgan Crucible at £73m

SHARES in Morgan Crucible rose 13p to 330p after the industrial products group reported better-than-expected 1994 profits and a 10 per cent rise in orders this year (Martin Barrow writes).

In the year to December 31, pre-tax profits rose to £72.6 million from £65.7 million. Ongoing businesses returned sales almost unchanged at £795.1 million, adjusted for the disposal of the Holt Lloyd car care business for £63.5 million in August. This left an exceptional profit of £2.9 million.

A final 7.15p makes the total dividend 13.1p a share (12.6p) with EPS of 21.9p (19.8p). Tempus, page 24

## Asia's Tigers lift Burmah results

By CARL MORTISHED

BURMAH CASTROL, maker of Castrol GTX motor oil, is reaping the rewards of its marketing push into the fast-growing Asian "Tiger" economies with profits from its Castrol Asia subsidiary growing by a third in 1994.

The gain combined with increased market share in the United States and a recovery in chemicals to enable Burmah to raise pre-tax profits before exceptional items by 21 per cent to £219.5 million in the year to December. It is raising the dividend 18 per cent to 32.5p.

Jonathan Fry, chief executive, said the 1994 results were achieved against a better background, with growth in the C7

countries of 3 per cent. In the lubricants market, however, there was growth of only 1 to 2 per cent in volumes. "We did 7 per cent," he commented, "and we are continuing to take market share."

Profits from chemicals grew by 34 per cent to £48.9 million mainly due to recovery at Fosco, the metallurgical company. Mr Fry said the improvement in chemical profits was due to reductions in costs and improvements in prices.

Burmah gained market share in the important American DIY motor oil market and reckons it is only 1.5 points below the market leader.

## MPM falls to Cookson for £93m

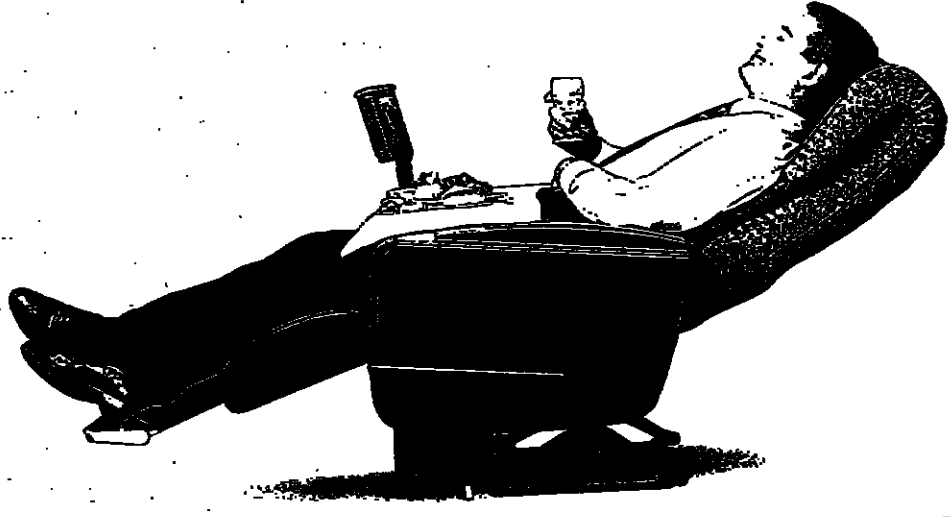
COOKSON GROUP, the industrial materials company, has agreed to buy MPM Enterprises, a manufacturer of screen printing equipment for use in making printed circuit boards, for a maximum consideration of £93 million (Martin Barrow writes).

In the year to the end of June 1994, MPM earned pre-tax profits of \$9.8 million on turnover of \$55.5 million. Net assets at the year-end were \$12.5 million.

The business will be merged with Cookson's electronic materials operations. There will be an initial cash consideration of £40.2 million, with a further profit-related payment of up to £52.8 million.

Last month Cookson raised £193 million for acquisitions.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Shares shrug off turmoil on foreign exchanges

SHARES and gilts staged a further recovery in the face of further volatility on the world's currency markets and Friday's 60-point fall on Wall Street.

The equity market recovered from a hesitant start to end the day on a positive note with the FT-SE 100 index finishing 5.2 higher at 3,143.1. But turnover levels remained on the low side. By the close of business a total of 494 million shares had changed hands but this figure had been swollen by last-minute bid and break-fast transactions designed to establish tax losses before the financial year-end.

Selling pressure among the institutions was kept to a minimum as the second quarter of the year began. Glaxo firmed 5p to 71p after approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to market Imtrex, its anti-migraine treatment in tablet form.

Northern Electric stood out with a rise of 14p to 763p as dissident shareholders continued to apply pressure to the group after the aborted bid by Trafalgar House. Calls have been made for an extraordinary general meeting.

Shares of the independent television and radio broadcasting companies enjoyed selective support with the Government intending to bring forward legislation allowing media cross-holdings. Brokers are hopeful that such a move could lead to a wave of speculative buying.

Gains were seen in Chilterna Radio, 25p to 22p, HTV Group, 3p to 167p, Scottish Television, 2p to 45p, Ulster Television, 2p to 68p, and Yorkshire Television, 2p to 43p.

Shares of Govett & Co, the fund manager, jumped 2p to 285p as a "for sale" sign went up. The group said it is in talks with a number of parties about the sale of its John Govett fund management business in London and Govett Asset Management in San Francisco.

This latest move follows Commonwealth bid for Jupiter Tyndall, its former at 41p. Dealers are also patiently awaiting a bid of about 230p a share for Sharelink, the telephone-based private-client stockbroker, from Charles Schwab, the American broker. Sharelink rose 12p to 21p.

A profits warning left VHE Holdings 10p lower at 80p. Wet weather in 1995's first quarter had restricted work



Bruce Farmer, managing director of Morgan Crucible

on outstanding contracts and was likely to hit net profits by £1.2 million. The City was expecting pre-tax profits of up to £4.5 million but the group said this target will not be met. However, profits were unlikely to be below £3 million against £3.8 million last year.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, is believed to have completed a review of the

money it accrued from last month's £193 million rights issue. It is buying MPM Enterprises, a US screen-printing maker, for £93 million. The group is paying an initial £40.2 million with deferred payments of up to £52.8 million. MPM last year made profits of \$9.8 million.

Full-year figures from Morgan Crucible were at the top end of City forecasts with

to 448p, bringing the rise on the past week to 19p. GEHE, the German pharmaceutical supplier, is offering 420p a share valuing the company at £377 million. The second closing date for the bid is Thursday. The group expects to receive £300 million higher at £23.7 million. The company blamed a 20 per cent profits fall from new and mature whistles although sales of The Famous Grouse rose 6 per cent.

Full-year figures at the top end of the range and a confident statement about current trading lifted Morgan Crucible 13p to 53p. Last year saw the carbon, ceramics and materials group raise pre-tax profits 10.5 per cent to £72.6 million. Bruce Farmer, the managing director, said margins were benefiting from price rises and the year had started on a firm note.

GILT-EDGED: Prices took their lead from US Treasuries that rallied on the better than expected National Association of Purchasing Managers' figures. But turnover levels left much to be desired with investors anxiously awaiting this week's US employment figures. The low turnover was mirrored in the futures pit where the June series of the Long Gilt climbed £19.12 to £103.71 on just 29,000 contracts completed. In conventional Treasury 8 per cent 2013 jumped £2.12 to £96.11, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £2.16 better at £98.71.

NEW YORK: Midday shares were lifted by higher bonds. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 6.57 to 4,164.26.

Closing Prices Page 27

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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
UK Capital Inc	36.01	46.20	41.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00
World Tech	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07	30.07
Europe 2000 Inc	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91	58.91
Technology	108.30	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00	113.00
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS													
OTIS 225 2211	275.70	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30	401.30
Amstar	267.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40	273.40
Pacific	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20	337.20
Europe	542.20	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80	570.80
Woolworth	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00
SCOTTISH NATIONAL INSURANCE LTD													
OTIS 225 2211	261.30	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10	270.10
Amstar	330.80	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70	331.70
UK Capital Inc	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30	109.30
Europe	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10	227.10
Woolworth	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80	64.80
Amstar	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10	81.10
Europe	337.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80	340.80
Woolworth	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80	330.80
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
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Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Amstar	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Europe	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10
Woolworth	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	181.10	1

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DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/15/12	Exp: 1245-456 123 Day	100.00	100.00
12/16/12	Expense	50.00	50.00
12/17/12	Expense	25.00	25.00
12/18/12	Expense	15.00	10.00
12/19/12	Expense	10.00	0.00
12/20/12	Expense	5.00	5.00
12/21/12	Expense	5.00	0.00
12/22/12	Expense	5.00	5.00
12/23/12	Expense	5.00	0.00
12/24/12	Expense	5.00	5.00
12/25/12	Expense	5.00	0.00
12/26/12	Expense	5.00	5.00
12/27/12	Expense	5.00	0.00
12/28/12	Expense	5.00	5.00
12/29/12	Expense	5.00	0.00
12/30/12	Expense	5.00	5.00
12/31/12	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/1/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/2/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/3/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/4/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/5/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/6/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/7/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/8/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/9/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/10/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/11/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/12/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/13/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/14/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/15/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/16/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/17/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/18/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
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1/22/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/23/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/24/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/25/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
1/26/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
1/27/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
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1/29/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
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2/2/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
2/3/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
2/4/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
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2/6/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
2/7/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
2/8/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
2/9/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
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3/6/13	Expense	5.00	5.00
3/7/13	Expense	5.00	0.00
3/8/13	Expense	5.00	

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Men's 100 yd	1:36.40	1:42.00	1:37.14	1:36.40
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"400 yd	7:07.00	7:12.00	7:07.00	7:07.00
"800 yd	14:52.00	15:00.00	14:52.00	14:52.00
"1,600 yd	30:52.00	31:00.00	30:52.00	30:52.00
"3,200 yd	61:42.00	62:00.00	61:42.00	61:42.00
"6,400 yd	123:32.00	124:00.00	123:32.00	123:32.00
"12,800 yd	246:52.00	248:00.00	246:52.00	246:52.00
"25,600 yd	493:42.00	496:00.00	493:42.00	493:42.00
"51,200 yd	987:42.00	992:00.00	987:42.00	987:42.00
"102,400 yd	1975:42.00	1984:00.00	1975:42.00	1975:42.00
"204,800 yd	3951:42.00	3968:00.00	3951:42.00	3951:42.00
"409,600 yd	7903:42.00	7936:00.00	7903:42.00	7903:42.00
"819,200 yd	15807:42.00	15872:00.00	15807:42.00	15807:42.00
"1,638,400 yd	31615:42.00	31744:00.00	31615:42.00	31615:42.00
"3,276,800 yd	63231:42.00	63488:00.00	63231:42.00	63231:42.00
"6,553,600 yd	126463:42.00	127072:00.00	126463:42.00	126463:42.00
"13,107,200 yd	252927:42.00	254144:00.00	252927:42.00	252927:42.00
"26,214,400 yd	505855:42.00	508288:00.00	505855:42.00	505855:42.00
"52,428,800 yd	1011711:42.00	1016576:00.00	1011711:42.00	1011711:42.00
"104,857,600 yd	2023423:42.00	2033152:00.00	2023423:42.00	2023423:42.00
"209,715,200 yd	4046847:42.00	4066304:00.00	4046847:42.00	4046847:42.00
"419,430,400 yd	8093695:42.00	8132608:00.00	8093695:42.00	8093695:42.00
"838,860,800 yd	16187391:42.00	16265216:00.00	16187391:42.00	16187391:42.00
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"3,355,443,200 yd	64749567:42.00	65060864:00.00	64749567:42.00	64749567:42.00
"6,710,886,400 yd	129499135:42.00	130121728:00.00	129499135:42.00	129499135:42.00
"13,421,772,800 yd	258998271:42.00	260243456:00.00	258998271:42.00	258998271:42.00
"26,843,545,600 yd	517996543:42.00	520486912:00.00	517996543:42.00	517996543:42.00
"53,687,091,200 yd	1035993087:42.00	1040973824:00.00	1035993087:42.00	1035993087:42.00
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"214,748,364,800 yd	4143972351:42.00	4163895296:00.00	4143972351:42.00	4143972351:42.00
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"858,993,459,200 yd	16575889407:42.00	16655581184:00.00	16575889407:42.00	16575889407:42.00
"1,717,986,918,400 yd	33151778815:42.00	33311162368:00.00	33151778815:42.00	33151778815:42.00
"3,435,973,836,800 yd	66303557631:42.00	66622324736:00.00	66303557631:42.00	66303557631:42.00
"6,871,947,673,600 yd	132607115263:42.00	133244649472:00.00	132607115263:42.00	132607115263:42.00
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"27,487,788,694,400 yd	530428461055:42.00	532978597888:00.00	530428461055:42.00	530428461055:42.00
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"109,951,154,777,600 yd	2121713844223:42.00	2131914391552:00.00	2121713844223:42.00	2121713844223:42.00
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"439,804,619,110,400 yd	8486855376895:42.00	85276575		

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1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01	2101-02	2102-03	2103-04	2104-05	2105-06	2106-07	2107-08	2108-09	2109-10	2110-11	2111-12	2112-13	2113-14	2114-15	2115-16	2116-17	2117-18	2118-19	2119-20	2120-21	2121-22	2122-23	2123-24	2124-25	2125-26	2126-27	2127-28	2128-29	2129-30	2130-31	2131-32	2132-33	2133-34	2134-35	2135-36	2136-37	2137-38	2138-39	2139-40	2140-41	2141-42	2142-43	2143-44	2144-45	2145-46	2146-47	2147-48	2148-49	2149-50	2150-51	2151-52	2152-53	2153-54	2154-55	2155-56	2156-57	2157-58	2158-59	2159-60	2160-61	2161-62	2162-63	2163-64	2164-65	2165-66	2166-67	2167-68	2168-69	2169-70	2170-71	2171-72	2172-73	2173-74	2174-75	2175-76	2176-77	2177-78	2178-79	2179-80	2180-81	2181-82	2182-83	2183-84	2184-85	2185-86	2186-87	2187-88	2188-89	2189-90	2190-91	2191-92	2192-93	2193-94	2194-95	2195-96	2196-97	2197-98	2198-99	2199-00	2200-01	2201-02	2202-03	2203-04	2204-05	2205-06	2206-07	2207-08	2208-09	2209-10	2210-11	2211-12	2212-13	2213-14	2214-15	2215-16	2216-17	2217-18	2218-19	2219-20	2220-21	2221-22	2222-23	2223-24	2224-25	2225-26	2226-27	2227-28	2228-29	2229-30	2230-31	2231-32	2232-33	2233-34	2234-35	2235-36	2236-37	2237-38	2238-39	2239-40	2240-41	2241-42	2242-43	2243-44	2244-45	2245-46	2246-47	2247-48	2248-49	2249-50	2250-51	2251-52	2252-53	2253-54	2254-55	2255-56	2256-57	2257-58	2258-59	2259-60	2260-61	2261-62	2262-63	2263-64	2264-65	2265-66	2266-67	2267-68	2268-69	2269-70	2270-71	2271-72	2272-73	2273-74	2274-75	2275-76	2276-77	2277-78	2278-79	2279-80	2280-81	2281-82	2282-83	2283-84	2284-85	2285-86	2286-87	2287-88	
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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

	1978	1979	1980	1981
Operating Assets	7,000	7,517	8,500	8,897
Operating Liabilities	822	865	910	910
Operating Assets	6,178	6,652	7,590	7,987
Operating Liabilities	114	260	440	440
Operating Assets	6,064	6,392	7,150	7,547
Operating Liabilities	43	104	172	172
Operating Assets	5,921	6,288	6,978	7,375
Operating Liabilities	10	19	32	32
Operating Assets	5,911	6,269	6,946	7,343
Operating Liabilities	11	20	34	34
Operating Assets	5,900	6,249	6,912	7,309
Operating Liabilities	12	21	35	35
Operating Assets	5,888	6,228	6,877	7,274
Operating Liabilities	13	22	36	36
Operating Assets	5,875	6,206	6,841	7,238
Operating Liabilities	14	23	37	37
Operating Assets	5,861	6,183	6,804	7,201
Operating Liabilities	15	24	38	38
Operating Assets	5,846	6,159	6,766	7,163
Operating Liabilities	16	25	39	39
Operating Assets	5,830	6,134	6,727	7,124
Operating Liabilities	17	26	40	40
Operating Assets	5,813	6,108	6,687	7,084
Operating Liabilities	18	27	41	41
Operating Assets	5,795	6,081	6,646	7,043
Operating Liabilities	19	28	42	42
Operating Assets	5,776	6,053	6,604	7,001
Operating Liabilities	20	29	43	43
Operating Assets	5,756	6,024	6,561	6,958
Operating Liabilities	21	30	44	44
Operating Assets	5,735	6,000	6,517	6,914
Operating Liabilities	22	31	45	45
Operating Assets	5,713	5,975	6,472	6,869
Operating Liabilities	23	32	46	46
Operating Assets	5,690	5,949	6,426	6,823
Operating Liabilities	24	33	47	47
Operating Assets	5,666	5,922	6,379	6,776
Operating Liabilities	25	34	48	48
Operating Assets	5,641	5,894	6,331	6,728
Operating Liabilities	26	35	49	49
Operating Assets	5,615	5,865	6,282	6,679
Operating Liabilities	27	36	50	50
Operating Assets	5,588	5,835	6,232	6,629
Operating Liabilities	28	37	51	51
Operating Assets	5,560	5,804	6,181	6,578
Operating Liabilities	29	38	52	52
Operating Assets	5,531	5,772	6,129	6,526
Operating Liabilities	30	39	53	53
Operating Assets	5,501	5,739	6,076	6,473
Operating Liabilities	31	40	54	54
Operating Assets	5,470	5,705	6,022	6,419
Operating Liabilities	32	41	55	55
Operating Assets	5,438	5,670	5,967	6,364
Operating Liabilities	33	42	56	56
Operating Assets	5,405	5,634	5,911	6,308
Operating Liabilities	34	43	57	57
Operating Assets	5,371	5,597	5,854	6,251
Operating Liabilities	35	44	58	58
Operating Assets	5,336	5,559	5,796	6,193
Operating Liabilities	36	45	59	59
Operating Assets	5,300	5,520	5,737	6,134
Operating Liabilities	37	46	60	60
Operating Assets	5,263	5,480	5,677	6,074
Operating Liabilities	38	47	61	61
Operating Assets	5,225	5,439	5,616	6,013
Operating Liabilities	39	48	62	62
Operating Assets	5,186	5,397	5,554	5,951
Operating Liabilities	40	49	63	63
Operating Assets	5,146	5,354	5,491	5,888
Operating Liabilities	41	50	64	64
Operating Assets	5,105	5,310	5,427	5,824
Operating Liabilities	42	51	65	65
Operating Assets	5,063	5,265	5,362	5,759
Operating Liabilities	43	52	66	66
Operating Assets	5,020	5,219	5,296	5,693
Operating Liabilities	44	53	67	67
Operating Assets	4,976	5,172	5,229	5,626
Operating Liabilities	45	54	68	68
Operating Assets	4,931	5,124	5,161	5,558
Operating Liabilities	46	55	69	69
Operating Assets	4,885	5,075	5,092	5,489
Operating Liabilities	47	56	70	70
Operating Assets	4,838	5,025	5,022	5,419
Operating Liabilities	48	57	71	71
Operating Assets	4,790	4,974	4	

	7/2	7/3	7/4	7/5	7/6	7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	7/11	7/12	7/13	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20	7/21	7/22	7/23	7/24	7/25	7/26	7/27	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	7/32	7/33	7/34	7/35	7/36	7/37	7/38	7/39	7/40	7/41	7/42	7/43	7/44	7/45	7/46	7/47	7/48	7/49	7/50	7/51	7/52	7/53	7/54	7/55	7/56	7/57	7/58	7/59	7/60	7/61	7/62	7/63	7/64	7/65	7/66	7/67	7/68	7/69	7/70	7/71	7/72	7/73	7/74	7/75	7/76	7/77	7/78	7/79	7/80	7/81	7/82	7/83	7/84	7/85	7/86	7/87	7/88	7/89	7/90	7/91	7/92	7/93	7/94	7/95	7/96	7/97	7/98	7/99	7/100																														
1st	72.0	73.0	74.0	75.0	76.0	77.0	78.0	79.0	80.0	81.0	82.0	83.0	84.0	85.0	86.0	87.0	88.0	89.0	90.0	91.0	92.0	93.0	94.0	95.0	96.0	97.0	98.0	99.0	100.0	101.0	102.0	103.0	104.0	105.0	106.0	107.0	108.0	109.0	110.0	111.0	112.0	113.0	114.0	115.0	116.0	117.0	118.0	119.0	120.0	121.0	122.0	123.0	124.0	125.0	126.0	127.0	128.0	129.0	130.0	131.0	132.0	133.0	134.0	135.0	136.0	137.0	138.0	139.0	140.0	141.0	142.0	143.0	144.0	145.0	146.0	147.0	148.0	149.0	150.0	151.0	152.0	153.0	154.0	155.0	156.0	157.0	158.0	159.0	160.0	161.0	162.0	163.0	164.0	165.0	166.0	167.0	168.0	169.0	170.0	171.0	172.0	173.0	174.0	175.0	176.0	177.0	178.0	179.0	180.0	181.0	182.0	183.0	184.0	185.0	186.0	187.0	188.0	189.0	190.0	191.0	192.0	193.0	194.0	195.0	196.0	197.0	198.0	199.0	200.0
2nd	72.5	73.5	74.5	75.5	76.5	77.5	78.5	79.5	80.5	81.5	82.5	83.5	84.5	85.5	86.5	87.5	88.5	89.5	90.5	91.5	92.5	93.5	94.5	95.5	96.5	97.5	98.5	99.5	100.5	101.5	102.5	103.5	104.5	105.5	106.5	107.5	108.5	109.5	110.5	111.5	112.5	113.5	114.5	115.5	116.5	117.5	118.5	119.5	120.5	121.5	122.5	123.5	124.5	125.5	126.5	127.5	128.5	129.5	130.5	131.5	132.5	133.5	134.5	135.5	136.5	137.5	138.5	139.5	140.5	141.5	142.5	143.5	144.5	145.5	146.5	147.5	148.5	149.5	150.5	151.5	152.5	153.5	154.5	155.5	156.5	157.5	158.5	159.5	160.5	161.5	162.5	163.5	164.5	165.5	166.5	167.5	168.5	169.5	170.5	171.5	172.5	173.5	174.5	175.5	176.5	177.5	178.5	179.5	180.5	181.5	182.5	183.5	184.5	185.5	186.5	187.5	188.5	189.5	190.5	191.5	192.5	193.5	194.5	195.5	196.5	197.5	198.5	199.5	200.5
3rd	73.0	74.0	75.0	76.0	77.0	78.0	79.0	80.0	81.0	82.0	83.0	84.0	85.0	86.0	87.0	88.0	89.0	90.0	91.0	92.0	93.0	94.0	95.0	96.0	97.0	98.0																																																																																																							

UNIT TRUST INVESTMENTS LTD			
10/1/58	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/59	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/60	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/61	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/62	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/63	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/64	100.00	0.00	0.00
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10/1/66	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/67	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/68	100.00	0.00	0.00
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10/1/70	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/71	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/72	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/73	100.00	0.00	0.00
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10/1/75	100.00	0.00	0.00
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10/1/84	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/85	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/86	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/87	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/88	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/89	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/90	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/91	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/92	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/93	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/94	100.00	0.00	0.00
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10/1/31	100.00	0.00	0.00
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10/1/33	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/34	100.00	0.00	0.00
10/1/35	100.00	0.00	0.00

10



**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

# Waiter, there's something nasty in the soup

**THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a grim tale of junkie no-hopers**

In the middle of an early performance of *Oh Calcutta!* a row of grave-looking Indians reportedly got up and trooped out. Let us hope no representative of the anomalous classes is similarly misled by the title of Harry Gibson's adaptation of Irvine Welsh's novel, for even if he managed to stumble out of the Bush, he could never again be able to wash East Coast expresses leave Kings Cross without an awful lurch of the spirits. At the end of the hellish Edinburgh, a place beset with the Bronx seems dole and Gomorrah gentled.

Welsh, Gibson and Ian Brown's superb young cast show us the side of Auld Reekie that visitors miss when they wander through the Georgian trappings. In search of avant-garde Ukrainian, plays on the Festival fringe. It is nihilistic, violent and leap into every variety of drug. Gomo this pub, and a woman is being used as a punch-

**Trainspotting**  
Bush

bag by her nian while everyone else looks the other way. Take a taxi to that address, and a gentleman nicknamed Mother Superior will give you a dose of the hard stuff. Since others, too, are using with something less transitory than heroin in your veins.

Kenny Miller's set is a bleak room furnished with a filthy toilet bowl and little else, but it serves for plenty of other locations, including a part of Waverley Station never visited by trainspotters. All four actors play several characters, too, though each has his or her primary role. Malcolm Shields's Franco is a swaggering thug who regards it as his right to father children and beat up their moth-

he has inadvertently shed. Stay away, too, if you have problems with four-letter words, for the characters casually gorge on them.

Yet without in any way softening its impact, the authors find plenty of black humour in their no-hopers' predicament. There is, after all, a certain grim comedy in seeing a battered woman turn on her would-be rescuer as an interfering \*\*\*\* and give him a pasting, or watching Franco, maybe the most foul-mouthed and charming man in Scotland, try to chat up a demure Canadian girl on a train.

Oh yes, and next time you go to Edinburgh, be sure you are polite to your waitress, especially if you belong to the English master-race. If she comes from this sub-world, as she may, she could retaliate in alarmingly private, personal ways. Watch the tomato soup and the chocolate profiteroles particularly closely. You wouldn't want to end up paying for hidden extras, now would you?



Malcolm Shields as the swaggering thug Franco and Ewen Bremner as the sly narrator Mark

**VISUAL ART: An interactive show in London draws the crowds but fails to engage the intellect. Plus other contemporary shows**

## Touchy-feely, very waffly

**'Take Me (I'm Yours)' says a Serpentine show. No thanks, says Richard Cork**

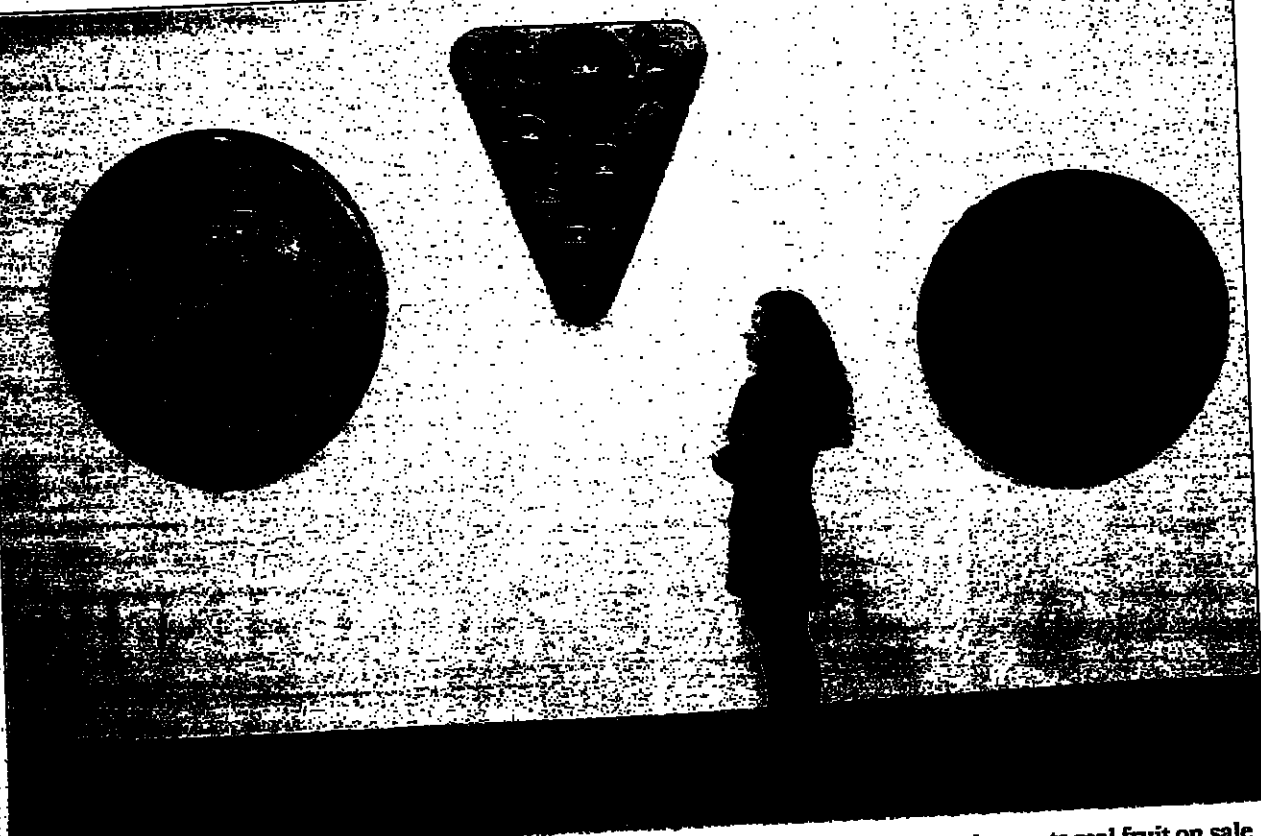
Enter most galleries, and you soon become aware of guards sternly monitoring your movements. Peering closely at a painting often prompts a reprimand. Touching even the most graspable of sculptures is forbidden. Talking in anything more than a murmur seems impolite. The whole experience can easily inhibit newcomers.

That is why the mood at the Serpentine's show comes as such a contrast. Attendees encourage visitors to dress up in, sit down on, open walk off with, the objection display. From the outset, participation is the keynote.

Hans Ulrich Obrist, the young Swiss curator has given his show the subjective title *Take Me (I'm Yours)*. And in the first room, most of the floor-space is filled with clothes waiting to be carried away. Judging by their smell and grubbiness, the garments have been well used. That does not seem to deter visitors.

Christian Boltanski, the French artist renowned for the clothes exhibited, is best-known for elegiac photo-prints commemorating the anonymous victims of persecution. They usually evoke a mood akin to a memorial service. He might have intended us to think here about the former owners of these leaped garments. But whatever under-tones his installation may possess, they seem to be ignored by most people hunting through the piles. Far from resembling a chapel of remembrance, his room looks more like a bring-and-buy bazaar, except that nobody is selling anything.

The next room is transformed into a play of crowded activity. Half nursery and half gymnasium, the gallery is festooned with equipment enticing us to cast aside our reticence and join in. Stills lie waiting for visitors to mount them and blunder across this



The wall-sculptures of the Belgian artist Jef Geys reduce fruit to its formal essence. He then puts real fruit on sale

normally sacrosanct space. Attendees preside, but this time they encourage unorthodox behaviour. One of them stands beside a row of grey, hospital-style robes. She invites us to do a quick change and then wander around, finding out whether our behaviour is stunted or liberated by the borrowed clothes.

Nobody took up the challenge while I was there. Perhaps we all shied away from the possibility of being mistaken for lunatics. Perhaps, too, we were intrigued by the swinging dangle of the French artist Fabrice Hybert appeared to be offering it, of treating the gallery as a playground. But the swing's seat is punctuated by two shiny phallic forms, threatening anyone foolhardy enough to use it.

On the whole, though, the prevailing mood is genial. Douglas Gordon, the young Scottish artist whose first one-person show at the Tisson Gallery in January was so impressive, has devised a competition. The winner will enjoy a "blind dinner date" with the

artist, who holds out the promise of a slap-up meal at the Ivy. Plenty of punters were filling in the forms for the chance of an evening with Douglas, whose ghostly photographic image called *Kissing with Sodium Pentothal* is on the catalogue cover.

Gilbert & George are more

each bearing a visual souvenir of the two brazen figures parading their private parts. Although the contributors to Obrist's show are fairly diverse, they remain united by their avoidance of abstraction. At first glance, the Belgian artist Jef Geys seems to be the exception, displaying simplified wall-sculptures with projecting circular and oval forms. But their titles reveal that Geys's starting-points are as familiar as apples, plums and grapes. All he has done is reduce them to their formal essence. And then, as if to ensure that nobody feels mystified, he puts real fruit on sale next to the art.

Art and life are brought into conjunction throughout the show by a curator whose first exhibition was staged in his own kitchen. He promotes accessibility and encourages the viewer to become part of the art work's creation. Even the stern conceptualist Lawrence Weiner has become hospitable enough to produce a stencil, enabling visitors to draw their own graffiti.

In art, however, user-friend-

liness has shortcomings. Graffiti should by definition be spontaneous, not tamely allied to copying an artist's template. There is a blandness about this exhibition that dilutes its ambitions. The German artist Hans-Peter Feldmann presents a mass of photocopies of images, and lets spectators carry away as many as they like, free of charge. Many duly responded. But the images on offer were humdrum, and the whole project did not stimulate the audience feel at ease with contemporary art, many exhibitors removed any sense of challenge from their work.

The show lacks a cutting edge. It is heartening to find the Serpentine packed with visitors, all prepared to enjoy themselves and many no doubt relieved to come upon a gallery so devoid of forbidding restrictions. I do nevertheless worry about making artists too cosy. Art should be free to disturb as well as entertain.

Take Me (I'm Yours) is at the Serpentine (0171-402 0075) until April 30

**It looks like a bring-and-buy bazaar, except that nobody is buying anything**

direct. Having begun their careers a quarter of a century ago with the clarion-call "Art for all", they are now the grand old men of the Serpentine show. But no pomposity mars their large photo-prints. They celebrate the onset of middle age by exposing themselves, full-frontal. Free badges are on offer in a bowl.

**CONCERTS: Mahler's anguished symphonic farewell, and Shostakovich's complex enigma**

## A harrowing journey

SOMETIMES the epic scale of Mahler's valedictory Ninth Symphony is thought to be self-sufficient for a concert programme, a view I would not dispute. In his Mahler festival performance with the London Symphony Orchestra, however, Michael Tilson Thomas preceded it with not one but two other works, of a character not altogether to the symphony's advantage.

One was Toru Takemitsu's *Ceremonial*, itself new to this country, in which Kishikawa, resplendent in Japanese ceremonial costume, played a brief prelude and postlude on the sho, a kind of

**LSO/Tilson Thomas**  
Barbican

oriental harmonica. It had the effect of throwing into relief the main orchestral body of the work, a subdued rhapsody that put me in mind of Debussy with its shifting harmonies and little perceptible rhythm, and fell gracefully, if somewhat pallidly, on the ear.

Not so Weber's *Konzertstück* in F minor, a sort of piano concerto with four short movements condensed into one. Not many pianists think it worth the trouble to learn the decorative and virtuosic solo part these days, but Dame Moura Lympany, in her 79th year, played it from memory with dazzling finger-work and control of the keyboard, making us aware that its harmonic roots govern the music's direction as well as the romantically expressive character with which she endowed it.

So to Mahler, and the last symphony he lived to complete, composed in conscious

awareness of impending death. From the evidence of the unfinished Tenth, we now know that the Ninth expresses Mahler's deepest anguish through which he needed to pass before reaching an ultimate peace of mind suggested in its sequel. This was a performance that would have us make the harrowing journey with him.

Tilson Thomas was most at home in the sardonic frenzy of the *Rondo Burleske* movement, where his propensity for emphasising the obvious was more acceptable than in the earlier movements, and where the LSO's woodwind and brass took the trickiest passages in their stride.

The strings, with Yuri Torchinsky, a guest leader borrowed from the Royal Ballet Sinfonia and notably assured in his several solo passages, came into their own with sonorous eloquence in the long, heart-rending Adagio finale, carrying the performance to more than 85 minutes in total.

NOEL GOODWIN

## Mechanical key to a puzzle

**BBCSO/Lazarev**  
Festival Hall

NEARLY a quarter of a century after it was written, Shostakovich's Fifteenth Symphony is still a puzzle and will probably always remain so. For myself the key lies in the mechanical, clock-like sounds at the end. Whatever the joys and sadnesses of lives personal and political, the universe ticks on: time is our only true overlord. At other times it has seemed explicitly enough to depict the puppet-like formalism under totalitarian rule mentioned by many, including the composer's own son Maxim. A work riddled with enigmatic quotations ranging from *William Tell* to *Götterdämmerung* certainly sounds as though it must be about something.

But Alexander Lazarev, bright-eyed and bustling with energy, rightly absorbed himself in the abstractions of the symphonic fabric. How spooky or jokey to make the beginning of the first movement? Lazarev opted for innocent wit rather than sardonic jab. The

long Adagio took on a properly funereal air without losing impetus, its massive, terrifying climax delivered with effective force. Throughout the symphony the response of the BBC Symphony Orchestra was efficient without raising very many goose pimples, but there were noteworthy contributions from the trombonist Anthony Parsons and the cellist Paul Watkins.

Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* had earlier been garished by the ripe but slightly underpowered tones of the contralto Nathalie Stutzmann. And to open the evening there was Wagner's *Tannhäuser* overture, in which Lazarev nearly succeeded in enabling the violins' descending chromatic motif towards the end to be heard clearly for a change.

STEPHEN PETTITT

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

A MODEL of a city at night expands across one section of the gallery. Light pushing up and out of the windows of simplified cardboard blocks throws a reassuring glow onto chalk-dusty "streets". Photographs by Hugo Glendinning of people asleep in bed are arranged on continuous chalk-covered blackboard. The effect is mesmerizing, a sleepy silence broken only occasionally by the mutterings of members of the cast of *Forced Entertainment*, who sit in the next room around a dusty table speaking out invented jargon across an imaginary place. A successful combination of many different media provides a strangely somnambulant overview.

**Andrew Stahl, Flowers**  
East at London Fields, 199-205 Richmond Road, London E8 2NJ (0181-985 3333) until April 23

□ THE seven artists represented in *New Art from Cuba* at the Whitechapel work with a great variety of material and style. Although, of course, there is a familiarity to their method and procedure, many artists

use the specific and local, and even educational, to good effect. Fernando Rodriguez curves a straightforward but nonetheless detailed narrative out of lumpy wood in a deliberate play on souvenir plaques and popular reliefs. Tania Bruguera makes the Cuban flag up out of snippings of human hair, while Pedro Alvarez paints dilapidated American imports and workers' banners against a backdrop of colonial Havana.

**Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX (0171-522 7878), until April 23**

□ NEW Brazilian Art at the October Gallery could be called Old Brazilian Art in that it is rooted in "timeless" abstraction. Although the art is undoubtedly an adamant result of individual self-expression, the effect is a melting pot of international language.

**October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AJ (0171-242 7367) until April 13**

SACHA CRADDOCK

## LONDON

**THE YIDDISH TROJAN WOMEN.** A quick re-appearance for Carole Saveman's rich play on the demands and dangers of self-deceit. Fine playing by the four women, led by Miriam Ture-Sun, 8pm, mat. Sat, 3pm, Tue-Sun, 8pm, mat. Sat, 3pm. **THE MILLIONAIRES.** Rachel Welch, Richard Johnson and Roshan Seth continue their tour of one of Shaw's most sparkling comedies, on its way to the West End. **CHAMBER BALLET PRAGUE.** The company of 16 dancers arrives the week with two programmes, including *My Kismet's* David Walker, Evening Songs. See feature, page 28. **MUSIC IN CHURCHES.** Richard Hickox and the City of London Sinfonia give a live broadcast concert today (that and the world premiere of Richard Rodney Bennett's *Bassoon Concerto*, plus works from Vaughan Williams and

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Judith Weir. Trevor Penlock then conducts the English Concert this evening for a programme of Bach, Handel, Vivaldi and Fauré; the counter-tenor Michael Chance is the soloist. St Giles, Cripplegate, EC2. Today, 1pm. Sat, 3pm. Sun, 11am. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. **ELSEWHERE**

**BIRMINGHAM.** The Mark Morris Dance Group, the hottest hit in American modern dance, makes its first Birmingham appearance tonight and tomorrow during Spring Fling. Shobana Jeyasingh gives a stunning double-bill on Friday and Saturday of *Rad and Making of Maps* and a highly entertaining programme called *Footnote* tonight. Go to Las Vegas completes the celebrations next Monday. **Reading, Broad Street (0121-236 4555), All at 7.30pm.**

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only  
■ Some seats available  
■ Seats at all prices

and finally reaching as it shows the effects, all and good, of emotional restraint.

**APOLLO, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.**

■ **INDIAN INC.** Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Michael York in Tom Stoppard's latest, witty, poignant, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian relationships and respect.

**ALHAMBRA, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.**

■ **ONE FINE DAY.** Joe McNamara as an extraordinary husband and long to be a proper dad to his kids. Daniels Lomborg's one-man play, here for six weeks.

**ALHAMBRA, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.**

■ **THE STAYDOWN.** Donald McCann plays an ex-cop of the Cuban Police looking back on his life and keeping his ghosts at bay. Sebastian Barry's play, directed by Mark Stouffer.

**THEATRE, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-730 2554), Opens tonight and tomorrow, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm. Sun, 1.30pm. In rep from mid-April.**

■ **TWELFTH NIGHT.** Ian Judge's delightful production from last year's Stratford, with Desmond Barrie and Emma Fielding.

**EMERALD, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.**

■ **UNDERPINDER.** John Gielgud's witty play, done by Hall Trust. Enthusiastic "simple Leave your brains in the change lock in Tom Stoppard's, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-434 4011), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm. Sun, 1.30pm. In rep from mid-April.

■ **WOLF.** Michael Bogdanov's tense, dense drama on the redemptive powers of storytelling, set in a Balkan-style hotel. Directed by Matthew Ziegler for Swan Theatre.

Take information supplied by Society of London Theatres.

## NEW RELEASES

**CROOKLYN (12).** Spike Lee's rowdy, wide-eyed memories of a Brooklyn childhood. **Blackie (12)** (0171-792 2020) **UCL (12)** (0171-434 0281)

**FIREFLY (12).** Generations of a Tuscan family are dogged by greed. Beguiling film from the Tarnow brothers. **Everyman (12)** (0171-435 1525) **MGM (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525)

**HOOP DREAMS (15).** Manlyhood documentary by Steve James. Fred Marz and Peter Gilchrist about two inner city kids and their dreams of playing professional basketball. **Stephen Picture House (12)** (0171-435 1525) **MGM (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525)

■ **JUST CAUSE (18).** Harvard law professor Sean Connery wrestles with a murder case in Florida. **Ludlow (12)** (0171-435 1525) **MGM (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525)

■ **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG).** Nigel Hawthorne negates supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner with Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen. **Barclay (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525)

■ **THE RIVER WILD (12).** Cernille upstart a family while white water rafting hobby. **Emberley action thriller, with Mary Steenburgen and Kevin Bacon. MGM (12)** (0171-435 1525)

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ★) on release across the country

**Michael Crichton's sexual harassment** Director, Barry Levinson. **MGM (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525)

**NOBODY'S FOOL (15).** Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melvyn Frank, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy. **Odeon West End (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525) **UCL (12)** (0171-435 1525)

■ **THE RIVER WILD (12).** Cernille upstart a family while white water rafting hobby. **Emberley action thriller, with Mary Steenburgen and Kevin Bacon. MGM (12)** (0171-435 1525)

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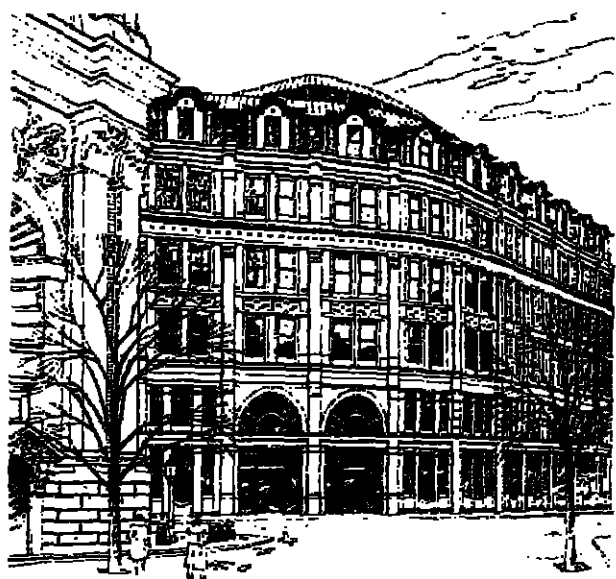




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# BAKER & MCKENZIE

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For further information in complete confidence, please contact Deborah Delgajish or William Cook (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



UNITED KINGDOM HONG KONG NEW ZEALAND AUSTRALIA USA

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invites applications for the post of  
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The successful applicant will work in the Solicitor General's Department which is responsible for all Criminal Prosecutions, and advises and represents the Government and Statutory Authorities in Civil matters.

Salary will be in the range C\$ 39,132 - 52,224 per annum tax free (C\$ 1 = US\$ 1.20), plus a 15% supplement paid monthly with salary. Benefits include air passage and medical care. Appointment will be on a two year contract.

Application form, Job Description and general recruitment information are available from: The Cayman Islands Government Office, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE, Tel: 0171 491 7779. Deadline for receipt of applications is 24 April 1995.

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The Entertainment Department requires an assistant solicitor who with a sound commercial approach, who can communicate well with clients, comes from a good academic background and is keen to establish him or herself in this field. Suitable candidates will be interested in the entertainment industry, and preferably will have relevant prior experience. Candidates ideally should be of up to 2 years experience, although established applicants will of course be considered.

Those interested should send a CV to: Sheila Britton, Personnel Manager at Magrath & Co., 52/54 Maddox Street, London W1R 9PA, Tel 0171 495 3003, Fax 0171 405 1745

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# The Masters provides poignant reminder of a champion's better days

## Lyle struggles to recapture former glories at Augusta

FOR Sandy Lyle, travelling down Magnolia Drive in yesterday morning's crisp sunshine was a journey down Memory Lane. Magnolia Drive was as beautiful as ever, 300 tree-lined yards leading to the stately old clubhouse of the Augusta National Golf Club.

It brought back good memories to Lyle, of his thrilling victory in the 1988 Masters and of his courageous putting on greens cut so close that they threatened to turn blue from a lack of water and exposure to the sun. Most of all, he remembered his stupendous seven-iron shot from a bunker on the 18th, called the greatest bunker shot since Bobby Jones's in an Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes 60 years earlier.

Those were the days, seven years ago, when Lyle had the world at his massive feet. The Open champion in 1985, he played a dominant role in Europe's victory in the 1987 Ryder Cup at Muirfield Village, the first in the United States.

Now, he appears to be on his knees metaphorically speaking. The man who was one of the best players in the world in 1988 has finished among the top 20 players in Europe only once since then. His last Ryder Cup appearance was in 1987.

The cause of Lyle's troubles is a source of worry for all those who like and admire this talented man. The rocks on which he has foundered include a withering of his confidence, a divorce, diminishing skill on and around the greens and a continual tinkering with his technique. *Anno domini* cannot be overlooked, either.

Ian Woosnam has a theory that golfers mature around the age of 30, that this is the time when the disparate characteristics that flower and wither at different times combine to fuse for a few fleeting years.

"I certainly played my best between 1987 and 1991,"



John Hopkins finds one of golf's most popular players attempting to defy the inevitable effects of time

Woosnam, who was born in March 1958, said. "I was a better golfer then than I am now."

The same would appear to apply to Nick Faldo, who won five major titles between July 1987, when he celebrated his thirtieth birthday, and 1992 and who has won none since, and Lyle, who was born in 1958. If every rule needs an exception to prove it, then Nick Price provides it in this case. He has been playing his best golf since he celebrated his 35th birthday.

"I was at my best in 1987," Davis Love made sure of an invitation to the US Masters, which starts at Augusta, Georgia, on Thursday, with victory in the Freeport-McMoran Classic in New Orleans on Sunday. Love won at the second extra hole in a sudden-death playoff with Mike Heinen, also of the United States, after they had completed the tournament in 74, 14 under par. Sandy Lyle was the leading Briton, a 71 giving him a total of 283, with Ian Woosnam one shot behind.

1988, that sort of time," Lyle said. "It seemed easier then." He won four events in the United States and three in Europe in those two years.

Lyle also looked more committed then. In New Orleans last week, another player talked of a practice round he had played with Lyle. "Sandy didn't seem interested," he said. "His mind wasn't on the job." In the first round, Lyle hit a ball into a bush and gave up the search for it before the allotted five minutes had elapsed.

Lyle still hits the ball enor-

mous distances and retains the phlegmatic temperament that has been so helpful to him, but the way he swings in practice and when he hits a ball are dramatically different. His practice swing is conventional enough, his hands travelling on a regular plane. The swing he makes at the ball, however, is so flat that his hands go back around his waist. It looks like a drunken heave.

Lyle talks of the ways in which he is trying to make it more upright, and, to this end, he practises with a harness and a baseball glove. So far, it seems, to little avail.

The difficulty that Lyle faces is how to raise his game now that his competitive edge is blunted by his comfortable income—though his contracts are running out—and a rewarding family life. He lives in some comfort with Jolande, his second wife, and their two young children near Biggar in Scotland, where he teaches his two sons from his first marriage to play golf and occasionally encourages Jolande to do so as well.

Next year, Lyle can rejoin the United States Tour and he intends to do so, basing himself near Tony Jacklin and family in Palm Beach, Florida. There is little to keep him in Europe, where his only remaining contact is with Lyle and Scott, the knitwear manufacturers. It is Lyle's last chance.

Harvey Penick, the author of two of the most successful golf books of all time, died on Sunday night, aged 90. Penick was the professional at the Austin Country Club, Texas. Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite, two of Penick's former pupils, will attend the funeral in Austin tomorrow.



Lyle watches a birdie putt miss its target during the Masters last year

### FOR THE RECORD

**BASKETBALL**

**BUDWEISER LEAGUE:** Doncaster Panthers 70 Sheffield Sharks 81. Loughborough Lightning 70 Sheffield 71. Doncaster Panthers 70 Sheffield 71. Doncaster Panthers 70 Sheffield 71.

**WOMEN'S FOOTBALL:** Arsenal 1-0 Tottenham. Chelsea 1-0 Manchester City. Liverpool 1-0 Manchester United.

**APRIL 4: Working in Thames Valley April 4: Doncaster v Manchester, Loughborough v Sheffield, Doncaster Panthers v Sheffield, Doncaster Panthers v Sheffield, Doncaster Panthers v Sheffield.**

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## A city's heart beats again

Shimmying Down Bold Street, Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

I associate the actress Margi Clarke with sex-orientated programmes and I am happy to learn that she has other strings to her bow. She is a more than competent reporter. Until it fell on hard times, Bold Street in Liverpool was the city's Bond Street. Now it beats again, as Liverpool's bohemian heart—a place, somebody says this morning, where people's destinies unfurl. The unfurling takes place in such establishments as a left-leaning bookshop, a store where nothing costs more than 50p, and a warehouse which has been re-coloured by sculptors, painters and pop musicians. Liverpool-born Clarke is on Christian name terms with everybody she meets in Bold Street. I enjoyed this ramble of kindred spirits.

Spotlight on Jessie Matthews, Radio 2, 9.00pm.

This is another of the showbusiness biographies that Michael Alexander does so well. He is not one of your scissors-and-paste merchants, and he knows when to stop talking and play the music. There are many Matthews songs in the archives, some from her stage shows and others from her films, and Alexander plays a generous selection of them tonight. Strangely, all we hear of Mrs. Matthews is the music. This being radio, we have to take on trust an important element of Matthews's work, which an American critic encapsulated in his tribute to her as "a dancing divinity".

Peter Dinklage

**RADIO 1**

FM Stereo, 4.00pm Bruno Brookes 6.30pm Dave Wright 8.00pm Simon Mayo 12.00pm Les 12.00pm, including 4.30-5.30pm "The 12.00pm News" and 1.15-2.15pm "The 1.15pm News" and 2.15-3.15pm "The 2.15pm News" and 3.15-4.15pm "The 3.15pm News" and 4.15-5.15pm "The 4.15pm News" and 5.15-6.15pm "The 5.15pm News" and 6.15-7.15pm "The 6.15pm News" and 7.15-8.15pm "The 7.15pm News" and 8.15-9.15pm "The 8.15pm News" and 9.15-10.15pm "The 9.15pm News" and 10.15-11.15pm "The 10.15pm News" and 11.15-12.00pm "The 11.15pm News" and 12.00-1.00pm "The 12.00pm News" and 1.00-2.00pm "The 1.00pm News" and 2.00-3.00pm "The 2.00pm News" and 3.00-4.00pm "The 3.00pm News" and 4.00-5.00pm "The 4.00pm News" and 5.00-6.00pm "The 5.00pm News" and 6.00-7.00pm "The 6.00pm News" and 7.00-8.00pm "The 7.00pm News" and 8.00-9.00pm "The 8.00pm News" and 9.00-10.00pm "The 9.00pm News" and 10.00-11.00pm "The 10.00pm News" and 11.00-12.00pm "The 11.00pm News" and 12.00-1.00pm "The 12.00pm News" and 1.00-2.00pm "The 1.00pm News" 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# The undeclared war waged in the womb

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Victory puts Australia in charge

## West Indies facing test of character

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

FOR the first time since 1975-76, when Clive Lloyd's side gave up the ghost in Australia, West Indies cricketers are faced with a crisis of confidence. Australia not only won the first Test match of this series here on Sunday, but, in doing so, they also showed West Indies up as being badly in need of cohesion. One of the strengths of modern West Indian sides has been that players have pulled for each other: in this one, they seemed not to be doing so.

In Andy Roberts, they have a new manager who was much feared as a bowler and still has a fairly quelling way with him. He knows more than enough to have seen that, at times, Ambrose and Walsh were at half-cock, and that far too many West Indies wickets were thrown away. At the end of the first day, after West Indies had been bowled out for 195, Roberts attributed their negligence to a surfeit of one-day cricket; but nobody, himself included, can have been convinced by that.

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, was surprised to find that when, early in the Australia first innings, he hooked at Ambrose, he had finished his stroke before the ball arrived. Ambrose has been kept out of the game with shoulder trouble, but in one of the stands was a West Indian banner suggesting that his shoulder was not the matter so much as his attitude. There were no such half measures with the Australians; they were wholly committed and played very well for their ten-wicket victory.

Several times in recent years, one has thought that West Indies were ready for the taking, but it has never quite happened. Their fast bowlers, and the confidence which they transmit, have allowed them to prevail. When they have lost a Test match, as they did against England here in

Bridgetown last year, it has usually been after the series has been won. It is a very different matter losing a first Test match, let alone in comfortably under three days; when they are searching for an opening pair, have an ageing, somewhat mercurial attack, and have just brought back a captain who has been through the torment of a breakdown.

The advantage Richie Richardson had when he took over the West Indian side from Vivian Richards in 1991 was that he is a less daunting

Wagor doubt ..... 36

figure than his predecessor and the players were happier for it. He was never a perceptive tactician, any more than Richards had been or Lloyd was, but he grew into the job and was well liked. Captaining West Indies to success through the Nineties had been a matter simply of shuffling the fast bowlers and acquiescing in as much intimidation as they could get away with.

Richardson now returns to a side that has been rather enjoying itself under Courtney Walsh, their caretaker cap-



Richardson: needs help

tain, and at a time when he, himself, is searching desperately for confidence, not only as a batsman but also in his own worldliness. From now on, he will need all the help he can get from his team, and Roberts will have told them so in no uncertain terms.

The West Indian selectors are also under pressure. To have included two unfledged opening batsmen was indicative of an over-confidence induced by West Indies' easy 4-1 victory in the one-day series and the absence from the Australia side of Craig McDermott.

The Australians were delighted that neither Simmons nor Arthurton was chosen for the first Test match. They felt that they had less to fear from Campbell and Williams, who, in the event, totalled only 17 runs between them.

There is further resentment, too, that Desmond Haynes, rather than going in first for West Indies last week, as he had wanted, was making 92 for Western Province against Orange Free State in Bloemfontein.

In Brian Lara, of course, West Indies still have the world's best batsman. To him, almost anything is possible. With one innings, he could transform the series. Mention of him brings one to that "catch", the one that never was of the first day but which, unfortunately, accounted for Lara when he had made 65.

Considering to whom it happened, when it happened and that nobody is in any doubt that Steve Waugh put the ball down, it has caused remarkably little antagonism. If Australia had been playing England, it would have registered on the Richter scale. Here, prudently, there are seen to be more far-reaching reasons for such an unexpected defeat.

□ Craig McDermott, the Australia fast bowler, has abandoned plans to rejoin the tour after medical tests on torn ligaments ruled out an early recovery.



Conner and his Stars &amp; Stripes crew celebrate the victory over Mighty Mary that forced a sail-off between the yachts today.

## Conner draws level in battle of the sexes

IF NOTHING else, Dennis Conner is a master of survival. The America's Cup maestro, pummeled from all sides, fought back to gain a decisive victory over Bill Koch's women's crew off San Diego on Sunday to keep hopes alive that his Stars & Stripes team can continue towards a record sixth tilt at yachting's premier trophy.

Had Leslie Egnot and her crew on Mighty Mary won, then Conner, who has withstood a barrage of protests on and off the water during the past week, would have been knocked out of the cup before reaching the finals for the first time in more than two decades.

Instead, a victory today in a sudden-death sail-off against Mighty Mary will propel Conner, the only man to have lost and regained the America's Cup, through to the Citizen Cup finals against Kevin Mahaney's champion defence candidate, Young America.

"We feel we have momentum now," Paul Cayard, who shares the wheel of Stars & Stripes with Conner, said after their one-sided four-minute win. "It's been a tough week, especially after the jury took away one of our wins over the

Barry Pickthall on the male failings that prevented a triumph over chauvinism in the America's Cup

keel change, but now we have a real chance."

Koch, whose vision and wealth have helped mould a disparate team of female rowers, weightlifters and other athletes into a world-class sailing crew, was frustrated as victory over male chauvinism slipped away.

The greatest irony was that just when the women sailors had their greatest success in sight, it was the man Koch had brought on board to replace J. J. Isler, the female tactician, who lost the race. Dave Dellenbaugh was the controversial inclusion to this once all-women crew whose strategic skills were meant to sharpen up the team's tactical abilities. Yet it was he who made the greatest tactical mistake of them all — steering the boat over the start line early.

It was an unforced error drawn from a last-minute dither as to which end of the line to start. Twenty seconds before

the gun, he was in two minds about whether to continue harassing

Conner's yacht or tack away for a clear start at the committee boat end of the line. Dellenbaugh shot the boat up into the wind, changed his mind and bore back down towards Stars & Stripes. Then, moments before the starting gun fired, he pulled the wheel down again and was caught with Mighty Mary's bows across the line three seconds early.

By the time that he had handed the wheel over to Egnot to steer the rest of the race and she had returned to cross the line correctly, Mighty Mary was a mighty 53 seconds adrift. In her 21 starts before this semi-final series, Isler had not been caught out in such embarrassing fashion, although she was late once for a start.

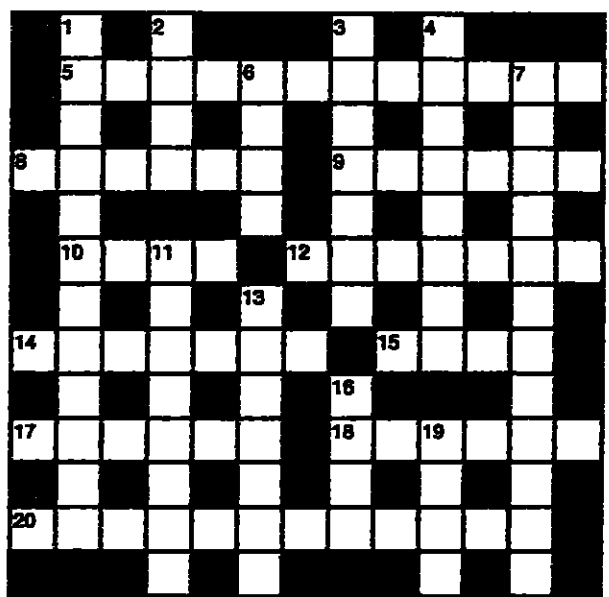
As a result, Conner, who once said that he would give up sailing if ever beaten by the women, had the victory

he needed most handed to him on a plate, ending a three-race losing streak that, only hours before, had looked like leaving him high and dry for the rest of the series. Instead, Conner levelled the series 3-3 and won the right to a sail-off.

The race jury, headed by John Doerr, the Briton, swiftly cleared the backlog of protests and counter-protests that have surrounded the controversial keel change to Conner's damaged yacht a week ago. The litigious issues, which threatened to submerge the event and drag the sport back to the dark days of 1988, when the cup was fought over in the Supreme Court, were dealt with in the firmest manner.

Doerr refused Koch's request to reopen the keel issue, dismissed Conner's protest against Young America and spoke darkly of charging protesters with unsportsmanlike conduct if any more frivolous issues were brought to his attention. As a result, two other protests still pending were quietly withdrawn, leaving the waters clear for a good clean fight today.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 437

## ACROSS

- 5 Defiantly query decision (5,5,4)  
8 Toy (shorter 6)  
9 Roman god of fire (6)  
10 Long tooth (4)  
12 Creation of the imagination (7)  
14 Part of lock: type of surgery (7)  
15 Final part of musical piece (4)  
17 Fruit, comes in hands (6)  
18 Extensively damaged (6)  
20 Toy twisted and jumped over (8-4)

## DOWN

- 1 Mark of encouragement, approval (3,2,3,4)  
2 Excitedly alert (4)  
3 Of dramatist George Bernard (7)  
4 Thin-bladed dagger (8)  
6 Sea eagle (4)  
7 "The - Banner" (USA's 14-5)  
11 Potato spirit (8)  
13 Scruffy cinema (4-3)  
16 Boost: card game (4)  
19 Early stringed instrument (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 436

ACROSS: 1 Back-pedal 6 Pal 8 Scrap 9 Cavalry 10 Impose 12 Lapel 13 Sultan 14 Belfry 17 Abbot 19 Antrim 21 Thin ice 22 Of use 23 RMT 24 Geniuffet  
DOWN: 1 Bush 2 Caramel 3 Pap 4 Docket 5 Level best 6 Polyp 7 Loyalty 11 On a string 13 Scatter 15 Failure 16 Carcen 18 Built 20 Soot 22 Off

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## Blackburn primed to widen gap

BY PETER BALL

BLACKBURN Rovers can take another step towards the FA Cup Premiership title at Loftus Road tonight. A win against Queens Park Rangers will put them eight points clear of Manchester United with only six games to play.

Their fortuitous win at Everton on Saturday, combined with United's failure to beat Leeds United on Sunday, appeared to tilt the balance firmly in Blackburn's favour. Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, as always, refused yesterday to look beyond tonight, but the feeling grows that the fates are with his team, and even he recognises his side's luck at Goodison Park.

"Every team needs a bit of good fortune and we were a bit short on that in the early part of the season, so maybe it is catching up with us now," he

### THE CHAMPIONSHIP RUMIN

## BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tonight: Queens Park Rangers (at Loftus Road) 19:00. Leeds (at 17:00). Manchester City (at 19:00). Southampton (at 14:00). Newcastle United (at 14:00). Liverpool (at 14:00).

## MANCHESTER UNITED

Apr 18: Leicester City (at 17:00). May 1: Coventry City (at 17:00). Sheffield Wednesday (at 17:00). Southampton (at 14:00). West Ham United (at 14:00).

said. "Perhaps the luck we got on Saturday at Everton was due to us." United can only hope that Blackburn's luck has run out. Perhaps it has, for, after avoiding Duncan Ferguson, the Scotland international striker, at Goodison, they now run into an England forward, since Rangers will be strengthened by the return of Les Ferdinand, who has a habit of scoring against Blackburn. Ferdinand missed the 1-0 win at Coventry City on Saturday with knee and shoulder injuries, but they have eased and he will offer an intriguing

contrast to Shearer, Blackburn's spearhead. Dalglish refuses to take anything for granted, his tribute to his team yesterday morning sounded like a tribute to champions. It also provided a testimony to the qualities required to win an English championship. "You only get luck if you work hard for it and they have worked tremendously hard," Dalglish said. "They [the players] have shown they can play, they've shown they can compete; they can play against footballing sides, they can play against physical sides, which you have

to do. They can play in the wind and the rain and even in the few bits of sun. They've been through all our seasons and they are still standing there to be counted."

Cambridge United, of the Endleigh Insurance League second division, yesterday dismissed Gary Johnson, their manager, and placed Tommy Taylor, the former West Ham player, in temporary charge. Three Welsh non-league clubs — Newport AFC, Colwyn Bay and Caernarfon Town — have been banned indefinitely by Fifa, the sport's world governing body, from all competitions from the end of this season. The Football Association of Wales is being taken to the High Court by the clubs for refusing to allow them to play in the English pyramid system from their Welsh bases.

Overses football, page 36

## Game in turmoil over rebel league

Kerry Packer, the Sydney rebel tycoon whose world circus split cricket in 1977, is the unlikely establishment figure now battling to prevent a "Packer-style" television revolution of rugby league.

For World Series Cricket read Star League, a proposed ten-team super league in Australia and New Zealand, which has attracted around 100 deserters from the Australian Rugby League (ARL). Packer's Channel Nine television network holds exclusive rights for ARL games, and he is determined to shepherd them back into the fold.

The ARL, its coffers swelled by Packer, extracted loyalty pledges yesterday from 25 players. However, most of the present Australia side have signed up for the alternative competition with News Limited, part of The News Corporation, of which Rupert Murdoch is chairman and chief executive and which is the parent company of The Times.

Christopher Irvine on how a super league in Australia may affect rugby league in Britain

Star League matches are due to be screened from next year on pay television in Australia and via BSkyB and Star-TV in Great Britain and Asia.

Ricky Stuart, the Australia scrum half, is among the prominent figures to sign, but Packer and the ARL were last night still attempting to dissuade him. "I believe in the super league concept," Laurie Daley said, "and my future is secured" — a reference to the stand-off half's reputed seven-year £1 million deal. A ban on rebels playing any representative rugby was not an unsurprising resort by the ARL. It is one way in which the strike might be taken out of the Australians in the World Cup this

autumn in England and Wales, but hardly a satisfactory one. Ripples from the revolution 12,000 miles away might extend to leading players in Britain being enticed. Then, there is the question of Wigan's on-off World Club Challenge defence in June against Canberra, one of three clubs facing expulsion by the ARL.

The possibility of a world league controlled from Australia troubles the Rugby Football League, Rodney Walker, the chairman, said. "In the event of Murdoch creating a schism in Australia, it is inevitable he will want to talk to us. If we simply sit back and allow him to cherry pick, there would be the elite and the rest."

Less than a month after the launch of four new teams in an expanded Winfield Cup, the revolt from within appears far more serious than the one quashed by Packer in February. Unless delayed by court action, the rebels could be up and running by next March.

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